



MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

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CONSTITUTION - SECTION C



Section C of *The Muscokee Nation News*: Muscokee (Creek) Nation Constitution, as amended through February 18, 2006.

THIS MONTH'S REMINDER

On Thursday, Aug. 10, at 9 a.m., the Muscokee (Creek) Nation will be holding a large absolute auction at the Fountainhead Resort located at Lake Eufaula. An inspection and registration will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and starting at 8 a.m. the day of the auction. The auction will be conducted by way of a power point presentation. A 10% buyers premium will apply.

Head Start Program to host grand opening



Pictured above is the newly constructed Head Start Center and Administration Office located at 1820 N. Miami (13000 Loop 56).

photo by Jennifer Taryole

by Josh Slane
MNN Staff Writer

OKMULGEE — On April 21, 2005 the Tribe broke ground for a new Headstart educational facility to be constructed on the Tribal Capital Complex grounds. The vision of investing in its youth by creating a stronger educational foundation will come to fruition on August 10, as the Head Start Program hosts a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony beginning at 9 a.m.

The new Head Start building will hold 60 children and 20 staff members, including nine administrative staff, family

service worker, center supervisor, teaching staff of seven, a cook, and a cook aide.

Barbara O'Neal, Head Start Administration, remembers when the headstart program was just beginning. "I first started when I came down here to open the Headstart building in 1987," says O'Neal. "If you drive by our Headstart building now you will see the little house. This little house used to sit right next to the Mound building. It (building) held twenty children. Since that time, we have grown from 20 to 60 children!"

The grand opening will begin at 9 a.m. and Byar Beaver will be master of ceremony.

Invocation will be given by J. B. Fish, the Honor Guard will post the colors, and Pat Wind will give the welcome. Speakers for the event include Principal Chief of the Muscokee Nation, A. D. Ellis, Speaker of the National Council, George Tiger, Dr. Pete Coser, and Congressman Dan Boren.

Dignitaries will be introduced and then the Head Start choir will then steal the show with a performance before the blessing and benediction by Rev. Joe Lowe Jr.

For more information about the Head Start Program or the grand opening call (918) 758-1420.

Holdenville Community receives new fire truck

by Ruth Bible
MNN Staff Writer

HOLDENVILLE—On August 1, 2006 the Holdenville Fire Department held a special ceremony with members of the Muscokee (Creek) Nation and community to present a newly purchased Grass Fire and Rescue Unit.

The Muscokee (Creek) Nation National Council passed legislation appropriating \$82,172 toward the purchase of the new rig. Chief Fire & Safety Co. Inc. of Chickasha delivered a Wild Land Brush Pumper Unit and a 2005 Ford F-550 Super Duty Extended Cab Truck.

National Council Tukvptce District Representative Shirlene Ade, Thomas Yahola and Sylvanna Caldwell were present, along with Speaker George Tiger, Holdenville Community Center officers and members, Mayor Jack Barrett and other city council officials.

"Disaster does not see color lines," said National Council Speaker George Tiger. "We all have the responsibility to look after each other. We have to present a joint effort so that we can all do things like this for all of the people in our communities. I think this is just the start of the things we can do if we present a unified effort."

Rev. Kelly Tiger also spoke on behalf of

the members of his family, whose home had been destroyed in the wildfires last winter. He expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the firefighters and the volunteers who bravely battled the blazes this past winter.

"It's good that the City of Holdenville and Creek Nation are working together in a joint venture," said Mayor Barrett. "It's good for everyone in Holdenville and the surrounding communities. This symbolizes the commitment to the community displayed by the members of the Creek Nation."

The fire department has nine full-time firemen and nine volunteer firemen. Holdenville is the main facility for the entire Hughes county.

"This is a great example of Creek Nation and the City of Holdenville working together," said Representative Ade. "Although it wasn't purchased in time to prevent the loss of life and property during the wildfires this winter, hopefully it will help us prevent these kinds of tragic losses in the future. Members of our community have learned first-hand the value of the protection provided by the Holdenville Fire Fighters."



Pictured above is the new Holdenville Fire Department fire truck.

photo by Ruth Bible

Tribe and county announce road improvement project

by Gerald Wofford
MNN Staff Writer

PRESTON — A recent cooperative agreement between the Muscokee (Creek) Nation and Okmulgee County District One will help establish improvements along the popular Will Sampson Road located in Preston.

Muscokee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Okmulgee County Commissioner Ron Ballard, along with tribal and county officials, made the announcement on Monday, July 31 at the location of the road near U.S. Hwy 75 south.

Ballard said he was glad to see the cooperative project between the tribe and the county

become a success. "We have been waiting four years for this project," says Ballard. "Improvements toward drainage systems and tin horns under the road will create a greater foundation."

Family members of Sampson, such as nephew Rick Powell were also on hand to witness the event associated with his famous Uncle. "He (Sampson) is known all over the world,"

said Powell, "I wish he were still here." Will Sampson, who garnered fame in such films as



Tribal and county officials pose in front of the sign announcing the road improvement cooperative agreement.

photo by Gerald Wofford

SEE PROJECT A-4

NCAI President visits Creek Council meeting

OKMULGEE — The National Council of the Muscokee (Creek) Nation was greeted by National Congress of the American Indian President Joe Garcia at their regular session held on Saturday, July 29.

Garcia was invited to the speaker's podium by National Council Speaker George Tiger and presented a power point presentation to the Council and attending audience about the structure, services, and importance of the NCAI.

Garcia stressed that the advantages that

non-tribal governmental entities use over Indian tribes is to confront issues that tribes are not united with. Therefore, using the division as an advantage to their cause and meeting their desired results, which are usually not in the favor of Indian tribes.

Garcia also pointed that the NCAI is considering creating an Ambassador building specifically for American Indian Tribes in Washington, D.C. The building will allow for tribes to lobby, plan and research in the Nation's Capital.

Office of the Principal Chief

by Chief A.D. Ellis

Again, greetings to all. I hope everyone is healthy and staying tuned in to the happenings at your tribal capitol. The council meeting Saturday produced some legislation being passed that will greatly effect our nations and it's people. The vote was unanimous to start construction on our new Tulsa casino. After 3 years of waiting since our first announcement it will now happen.

The 14th of July was the day we visited the Davis correctional system at Holdenville. This prison system holds over 900 inmates and about 70 are American Indian. This is why our re-intergration program was



started here and that to help our many tribal members when they are released from prison. Good job to the re-intergration employees who are so dedicated.

In July I presented a proposed tobacco compact to the National Council which was negotiated with Governor Henry of Oklahoma. The compact was turned down by the National Council as not acceptable. More negotiations is now taking place and Oklahoma is taking a hard stand.

Everyone should remember that August 10 is the day of the auction at Fountainhead lodge. Drop by and maybe you'll want to bid on something. Furniture, dishes, TV's and about anything you could imagine is there.

September 20th is the date for our next church summit meeting and we welcome all church leaders to attend at the Mound building at 10:00 A.M. For information call Rachael Sumka at (918) 732-2601.

Recently we have seen watermelon and vegetables for sale everywhere. If anyone needs something be sure and contact Hanna Indian Community. I commend these people for their hard work and their bumper crops.

If you are curious about all the new construction at the capitol complex there are the new Headstart building, Transit building and the Attorney General building. Next month you'll also notice a new Veterans building, Lighthouse and All Purpose building, starting construction and much more this coming year.

Last week I signed the charter for the new college of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. This is another step towards getting accreditation and becoming a full tribal college.

Quote of the Month

"The most flammable kind of wood is the chip on the shoulder."

Second Opinion

I hope that everyone can find a cool place to stay. I understand that there are a few more air conditioners available through Social Services. Makes you wonder how our ancestors got along without them. I can remember that when our church built a brush arbor, the ground under the arbor was bare. When it got hot, my dad would either get the deacons or us boys to get buckets of water and dampen the ground. It seemed to help a little bit.

On July 19, 2006, I asked the Citizenship Board for some statistics. There are 6,350 enrolled citizens less than 55 years old and half blood or more and over 55 years old 3,963. The total is 10,313 half blood and more of the 61,767 enrolled citizens which represents 16% our Nation. Just thought you might want to know.

I want to continue with the ball game described in the book Apalachee The Land between the Rivers by John Hann: When the courier left, it was obligatory that he go in the following fashion, that he be in the guise dosuai, which is the raccoon (1) with his tail, and stained with black, [with] something like horns(?) (2) on his head, and his face painted with red and his body stained with black and with raylike streaks of red, so that they looked like the devil himself. As for me, I say that each time that I saw them, they represented the image of the devil. And, when the Challenge was not accepted, there was a ceremony whereby the trappings were removed, and he came slinking back without entering the plaza, except with all the instruments put away and hung from the shoulder on a little sitck. But, if it were accepted, they would enter in the aforesaid guise, and with rattles or little bells or cowbells making a great



harmony with the instruments, calling out so that they might come out to receive him. And, having accepted the challenge. Y t o n a s l a c called to all his vassals, who were the panthers, wolves, and bears, all the dark and strong animals. And thus they use Cuy Juan as a surname. Cuy is the panther. Nita Agustin is the bear and equally seteris pauper, etc.(3) And it was their understanding, as the players proceeded and descended from the plaza and the ball pole, that these were their very ancestors from whom they were descended. And accordingly, these all entered painted with black, representing those animals. And the rivals painted in other colors, different from these, representing other animals such as the deer and the fox. They all came and entered into the plaza naked as their mothers bore them except for a little breechclout with which they covered their private parts.

And it is where the greatest assembly of people is to be found, as I shall speak about farther on. And from time to time they let out howls, like wolves. And, with these sights [before you], consider now, for the love of God, I ask each one of you, "How does such a game appear to you?" and "Whom would such a game not appall?" Could this fail to hold something from their pagan times concealed in it!

His players having come together, Ytonanslac gave them the rules so that they would not lose. And they are those which follow. And they are kept inviolate, so I understand. And should they cease to do so, they consider it inevitable that they would lose. And as proof I shall tell you what happened to me in a certain place to which I used to go to say Mass on Sundays because of the absence of its priest. I came to the place having only recently arrived [in Florida]. And those of this place had lost two important games and they were about to play another one that Sunday. And there was a soldier there, who today is an Inactive Captain, and he told me that the Indians were very demoralized because they considered it a certainty that they would lose. And, on being asked the reason, he told me, "Because they have not been assembling at night 'to sleep the ball,' and because they were not opening the church for them as [they did] formerly." On taking note of all this, I pretended not to understand.

The first rule [is] that the players are not to sleep the night before they have to play. I have been given to understand that, if they are to play on a Sunday, during the night of the Saturday before they have to play, if the players do not keep the vigil and carry out he practices I shall speak about farther on, because, if one should feel something in his hand and go to sleep, it would be easy for someone else to take it away from him. And, thus, if he slept, it would be a sigh that he would lose. And they did it thus. And they would remain in vigil all night long, all bunched together and seated on some low benches, speaking very softly. And from time to time they let

go with some wolf howls. And these were made occasionally from midnight on. And at once the dogs of the place, which are not few, would accompany them, howling. And I will let each one imagine what this seemed like in the silence of the night. As for me, I say that it gave me the horrors and a start. And it made me wonder how that could be good, that it was impossible that it should fail to conceal or to contain some abuses and superstitions. And, when I questioned some of the priests about it, they told me that they [the howls] gave them the sign for when they should be playing all piled together. But despite this, I did not desist in believing the contrary, because what did the sign have to do with not sleeping and with the giving of those howls from time to time.== TO BE CONTINUED

(1) The Spanish word used here, *tejon*, means badger in modern Spanish. North Florida is not part of the badger's range, so raccoon, suggested by the references to black, seems more appropriate translation. *Dosuai* is probably the Apalachee name for the animal.

(2) The Spanish word seems to be *guerrios*. *Cuernos*, or horns, is the closest equivalent to it that makes sense in modern Spanish. The Jeanette Thurber Connor transcription (n.d.) of this document has *Quernos*.

(3) This name appears to be in Latin. *Pauper* definitely means poor, or meager, and by extension little. The closest equivalent to *seteris* that I could find was *saetiger*, which means bristly or boar. *Saet-* is sometimes written as *set-*. Inasmuch as the boar was introduced into the Southeast by the Spaniards, the use of this name would have been a phenomenon of the historic period.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Chief Ellis,

I would like to thank the Indian Health Service for the new lagoon and partial plumbing that we received.

May God bless and keep you and your workers safe.

Sincerely yours,
-Jan C. Zuick

We would like to thank Creek Nation Tribal Driveway for fixing our driveway so quickly and also, thank Thomasene Long for doing the paperwork. We wish all of the other departments at Creek Nation was this efficient.

Thanks Again. Job Well Done

-Joe and Esther Berryhill
Okemah, OK

To The Muscogee Nation News;

Just had to write and let you know what a good job you're doing. MVTO! The paper has changed dramatically in the past couple of years and is something I look forward to each month. The new graphics and color ads and pictures are excellent!

Your writers and photographers are doing a first-rate job and we appreciate their efforts. Keep up the good work!

I would like to say MVTO! To Judge Patrick Moore for his excellent historical columns each month, also, our Nation should be proud that there are so many people interested in passing along our tribal history and culture and in Judge Moore's case, so eloquently.

His column on Creek bows and Bowmen makes me wonder how many of our

Mvskoke people still make and shoot their own bows. I know of only one but I'm sure there are many more. The Cherokees meet at their tribal complex on the third Saturday of each month for cornstalk shoots and I have shot with them a few times and they always ask if there are any Creeks who would come over and compete with them like in the old days.

I can't speak for anybody but myself but I'd like to be apart of it. So, if there are any others out there who shoot or would like to learn how to shoot a traditional bow would you give me a call at (918) 527-5895 or e-mail me at nativeheart@valornet.com

MVTO!
-Vern Courtwright
Onapa, OK

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of the previous month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, CALL (918) 732-7637 or send e-mail to: jcook@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

To the Mvskoke Nation, it's Veteran's and all those who have supported our efforts

MVTO! It is an Honor for us to represent our tribe and it's Veteran's. Even though you may see us as a tribal functions, parades or even Pow Wow's, carrying or Posting the colors or our great Nations at events, our main purpose and function is providing final military Honors for our Veteran's at their passing. It is an honor and privilege we take seriously and one we feel All military Veterans have earned & deserve!

The Honor Guard has paid these Respects across the Mvskoke Nation in remote family cemeteries and in the cit-

ies too, in temperatures from well below freezing to well- above 100 degrees, but our discomfort means nothing compared to the sacrifices some of our veterans have made. We Honor them.

When we put on our uniforms, we are proud to represent the Mvskoke warriors who fought the good fight back in our homelands and those who have fought and served in service to our country ever since. Some of our ancestors have fought in World War I before they were even given citizenship. We Honor them.

We Honor those who served in World War II and Korea. Many of us are Vietnam or Vietnam-era Veterans who were never given a welcome back, when we needed it

the most. We Honor them.

We have Desert Storm Veteran's who are part of our group, one of which is a woman, we Honor them.

Mvskoke warriors have already fought and are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our prayers are with those placing themselves in Harms way. We Honor them.

Our Citizens, Chief and National Council have always supported our efforts 100% for which we are Thankful. We Honor you.

With Respect
MVSKEKE NATION HONOR GUARD

From the Desk of the Speaker; HENSCH!!!

In previous columns I have encouraged our tribal members to contact their representatives with their concerns and issues. I receive phone calls and letters from citizens we serve regarding the 14th session of the National Council. They are encouraging and appreciative of the work being done in their behalf by the National Council and realize not everyone will agree on decisions being made. In these conversations and correspondence, they appreciate the accessibility to contact council members by phone calls, e-mail and letters. Phone numbers, addresses and other information pertaining to contacting us are public information and are available to each and every tribal member.



All meetings of the National Council are open meetings and our tribal members are encouraged to attend. Only in certain instances such as personnel and litigation matters or upon a request of the Chief or a Council representative are meetings held in executive session. Much of the legislative workload is done at the committee level and once again I commend the standing committees for their hard work. Minutes and actions of the Council are printed in the Muscogee Nation New and minutes, once approved by the respective committee and National Council, are available to tribal member upon their request. Be assured, these official documents are a true and exact actions of the Nation Council.

Each day it seems someone is attacking the sovereignty of tribal governments. Whether those attacks come from the state, federal or private sector we must fight to protect our sovereignty. Candidates during the current elections in Oklahoma are aggressively seeking the Indian vote. I believe this election will serve us well in supporting those who will serve as our “warriors” in the protection of our sovereignty. In the last session of the Oklahoma state legislature there were fourteen that served on the Native American Caucus. After the primary election held on July 25th the membership of the Caucus may increase, as there were a record number of Native Candidates. Native candidates know the concerns and issues of their people

The National Council served as host of the Tribal Summit on July 18th. More than twenty-five candidates from various state offices attended the Summit. In addition, a number of tribal officials, leaders and Creek communities were represented during the day long meeting. Native Vote United continues to gain momentum in Oklahoma and candidates are noticing the importance and the impact of tribes, economically and politically.

I am honored to announce that during our Quarterly Session on July 29th, President **Joe Garcia** of the National Congress of American Indians addressed the Nation. His address was of historic significance as he was the first President of the Indian Congress to address a session of the Muscogee Creek Nation Council.

In closing, I again encourage our tribal members to exercise their sovereign right to vote in our fight of protecting our sovereignty!

Until next time,
MVTO!

OKMULGEE — THE FOLLOWING CON-SISTS OF ACTIONS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL CONDUCTED AT THE APRIL 29, 2006, QUARTERLY SESSION.

APRIL 29, QUARTERLY SESSION
REPRESENTATIVES EXCUSED ARE: **ROGER BARNETT**, CREEK; **LARRY BIBLE**, TULSA; **DUKE HARJO**, CREEK; **ROBERT JONES**, OKMULGEE; **CHERRAH QUIETT**, TULSA; **PAULA WILLITS**, TULSA; **LENA WIND**, OKFUSKEE;
ABSENT WAS: REPRESENTATIVE **LARRY BIBLE** ON LEAVE FOR 6-8 WEEKS; **DUKE HARJO**, CREEK DISTRICT; **ROGER BARNETT**, CREEK DISTRICT; **LENA WIND**, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; **ROBERT JONES**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT;

CHERRAH RIDGE QUIETT, TULSA DISTRICT; AND **PAULA WILLITS**, TULSA DISTRICT;
SPEAKER GEORGE TIGER, CREEK DISTRICT, CONDUCTED THE MEETING AND DID NOT VOTE.

IN ORDER OF BUSINESS:
• **APPROVED AS AMENDED (18-0-0) TR 06-033**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO NEGOTIATE FOR AND PURCHASE RESTRICTED PROPERTY IN HUGHES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA FOR USE BY THE HOLDENVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY Sponsor: **Shirlene Ade**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-053**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESTRICTED PROPERTY IN HUGHES COUNTY, OKLAHOMA FOR USE BY THE HOLDENVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY Sponsor: **Shirlene Ade (\$90,000.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-068**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO DUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO BE USED TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF A SAFE ROOM FOR STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY Sponsor: **Shirlene Ade (\$35,250.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-082**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO PURCHASE AN ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR TO ENABLE AN ENROLLED MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN AND FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER TO MAINTAIN A REASONABLE QUALITY OF LIFE Sponsor: **Shirlene Ade (\$5,850.00)**

• **DIES FOR LACK OF MOTION, NCR 06-001** A RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURES Sponsor: **Roger Barnett**

• **APPROVED (13-5-0) TR 06-035**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF **WILLIAM JOHN EARL SETTLE** TO SERVE ON THE GAMING OPERATIONS AUTHORITY BOARD Sponsor: **Anthony Notaro**

VOTING NO WERE: **THOMAS MCINTOSH**, MCINTOSH DISTRICT; **EDDIE LAGRONE**, MUSKOGEE DISTRICT; **SYLVANNA CALDWELL**, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT; **SHIRLENE ADE**, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT; **RON CLEGHORN**, TULSA DISTRICT.

• **WILL RETURN TO COMMITTEE (18-0-0) TR 06-036**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS GRANT THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORIZATION TO DEVOLVE THE CONCURRENT CRIMINAL JURISDICTION FOR THE CLAREMORE SERVICE UNIT AND INDIAN HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS Sponsor: **Larry Bible**

REPRESENTATIVE **THOMAS YAHOLA** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE

• **APPROVED (17-0-0) TR 06-037**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE A PITNEY BOWES RENTAL AGREEMENT FOR A MAIL METER MACHINE TO BE UTILIZED BY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING Sponsor: **Duke Harjo**
REPRESENTATIVE **THOMAS YAHOLA** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE

• **APPROVED (17-0-0) TR 06-041**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE GAMING OPERATIONS AUTHORITY BOARD TO ASPHALT THE NORTH PARKING LOT AT CREEK NATION CASINO TULSA AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS WITH SELECTED CONTRACTOR FOR SAID EXPANSIONS Sponsor: **Sam Alexander**

REPRESENTATIVE **THOMAS YAHOLA** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE

• **APPROVED (17-0-0) TR 06-042**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROVING THE PROJECT BUDGET FOR THE NEW CREEK NATION TULSA CASINO Sponsor: **Roger Barnett**

• **APPROVED UPON A TIE VOTE THE SPEAKER VOTES YES, THEREFORE THE FOLLOWING RESULTS BEING RECORDED: (10-9-0) TR 06-044**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE MUSCOGEE NATION BUSINESS

ENTERPRISE BOARD TO EXECUTE AN ATTORNEY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUSCOGEE NATION BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND PATTON BOGGS, LLP Sponsor: **Roger Barnett**

VOTING NO WERE: **THOMAS MCINTOSH**, MCINTOSH DISTRICT; **EDDIE LAGRONE**, MUSKOGEE DISTRICT; **TRAVIS SCOTT**, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; **JEFF FIFE**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **BO JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **JAMES JENNINGS**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **RON CLEGHORN**, TULSA DISTRICT, **SAM ALEXANDER**, TULSA DISTRICT **RICHARD BERRYHILL**, WAGONER DISTRICT.

• **WILL RETURN TO COMMITTEE (18-0-0) TR 06-046**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROVING THE BUSINESS PROPOSAL BETWEEN THE MUSCOGEE NATION BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND SUMMIT CALL CENTER Sponsor: **Pete Beaver**; Co-Sponsor: **Eddie LaGrone**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) TR 06-047**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF **MICHAEL P. WISNER II** TO SERVE ON THE TRIBAL TRADE & COMMERCE BOARD Sponsor: **Bill Fife**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) TR 06-048**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF **MICHAEL HUGHES** TO SERVE ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MUSCOGEE NATION BUSINESS ENTERPRISE Sponsor: **Roger Barnett**; Co-Sponsor: **Anthony Notaro**

• **APPROVED (13-5-0) TR 06-049**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF **OWEN SAPULPA** TO SERVE ON THE GAMING OPERATIONS AUTHORITY BOARD Sponsor: **Eddie LaGrone**; Co-Sponsor(s): **R. Cleghorn**; **S. Alexander**

VOTING NO WERE: **ANTHONY NOTARO**, MCINTOSH DISTRICT; **PETE BEAVER**, MUSKOGEE DISTRICT; **JAMES JENNINGS**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **RICHARD BERRYHILL**, WAGONER DISTRICT; **JOHNNIE GREENE**, WAGONER DISTRICT.

REPRESENTATIVE **TRAVIS SCOTT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE

• **APPROVED (17-0-0) TR 06-050**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH AND ASSOCIATES, EXTENDING THE CURRENT CONTRACT FOR AUDIT FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS Sponsor: **Sam Alexander**

• **APPROVED (17-1-0) TR 06-052**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION SUPPORTING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION PAYABLE OVER FIVE (5) YEARS TO THE TULSA LIBRARY TRUST FOR THE HERMAN & KATE KAISER LIBRARY FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION FIREPLACE LOUNGE AND MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CHILDREN'S STORYTIME AREA Sponsor: **Cherrah Ridge-Quiett**

VOTING NO WERE: **JEFF FIFE**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT.

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-052**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING TITLE 18 4-108 H., ENTITLED “Stipend and Mileage” TO INCREASE THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE DIVISION OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR SAID INCREASE Sponsor: **Keeper Johnson (\$9,761.00)**

• **APPROVED (11-7-0) NCA 06-056**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FY 2006 BUDGET TO INCREASE THE SALARY OF THE CONTROLLER AND AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 37, 2-719, TO REFLECT SAID INCREASE Sponsor: **Tom Pickering**; Co-Sponsor(s): **A. Notaro**; **S. Alexander (\$12,500.00)**
VOTING NO WERE: **EDDIE LAGRONE**, MUSKOGEE DISTRICT; **TRAVIS SCOTT**, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; **BILL FIFE**, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; **JEFF FIFE**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT, **SYLVANNA CALDWELL**, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT; **SHIRLENE ADE**, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT; **RON CLEGHORN**, TULSA DISTRICT.

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-057**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) APPROPRIATING FUNDS AWARDED BY THE U.S.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM WITHIN THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE Sponsor: **Lena Wind**
REPRESENTATIVE **THOMAS YAHOLA** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

• **APPROVED (17-0-0) NCA 06-058**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE SALEM/RYAL ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE COOK POSITION Sponsor: **Tom Pickering**; Co-Sponsor(s): **A. Notaro**; **K. Johnson (\$8,000.00)**
REPRESENTATIVE **THOMAS YAHOLA** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

• **APPROVED (17-0-0) NCA 06-059**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING PROVISIONS IN MCNCA TITLE 6, CHAPTER 1 REGARDING JUVENILE PROCEEDINGS Sponsor: **Lena Wind**

• **APPROVED AS AMENDED (18-0-0) NCA 06-060**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CODE ANNOTATE TITLE 28, “LANDS AND MINERALS,” CHAPTER 6, “TRIBAL CAPITOL COMPLEX MASTER SITE PLAN” Sponsor: **Jeff Fife**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-061**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO NORTHEAST DISTRICT SENIOR METHODIST ORGANIZATION FOR THE ANNUAL SENIOR METHODIST CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THLOPTHLOCCO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Sponsor: **Roger Barnett (\$1,500.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-062**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE TO OFFSET THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING WATER AND SEWER FACILITIES TO EIGHTY (80) INDIAN HOMES LOCATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION Sponsor: **Thomas Yahola (\$160,420.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-063**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE WETUMKA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A ONE-TON 4X4 BRUSH RIG AND SKID UNIT Sponsor: **Thomas Yahola**; Co-Sponsor: **Sylvanna Caldwell (\$42,306.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-066**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR FIFTY (50) YOUTH TO BE LODGED WITH MEALS AT THE OSU CAMPUS DURING THE CREEK FESTIVAL Sponsor: **Sylvanna Caldwell (\$10,390.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-067**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION LANGUAGE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA TO HELP DEFRAY COSTS OF THE 2006 CREEK SINGING EVENT Sponsor: **Travis Scott (\$1,000.00)**

• **APPROVED AS AMENDED (18-0-0) NCA 06-069**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR TWENTY (20) CREEK YOUTH TO ATTEND INTRASTATE AND INTERSTATE CONFERENCES WITH THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION 4-H YOUTH PROGRAM Sponsor: **Sylvanna Caldwell**; Co-Sponsor: **Shirlene Ade (\$14,750.00)**

• **APPROVED AS AMENDED (18-0-0) NCA 06-071**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 18, CHAPTER 2 TO ADD A SUBCHAPTER 5, ENTITLED “POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND REVOLVING FUND” AND AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE DISTRICT COURT BUDGET FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SAID PROGRAM Sponsor: **Bill Fife**; Co-Sponsor(s): **J. Fife**; **J. Jennings**; **S. Alexander**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-072**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EIGHT (8) NEW FLAG POLES FOR THE VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK AT THE MCN COMPLEX Sponsor: **Bo Johnson**; Co-Sponsor(s): **R. Jones**; **K. Johnson (\$20,000.00)**

SEE LEGISLATIVE B-6

PROJECT CONTINUED FROM A-1

“One flew over the Cuckoo’s nest” and “The Outlaw Jose Wales,” died in 1984.

Ellis agreed with the statements of Ballard and Powell and was pleased to see all Creek citizens who live near the road, which stretches from hwy 75 east to Natura road, being served. The construction project is just one of many the tribe has been involved with recently and has helped improved over 20 miles of construction within tribal boundaries.

Billions in Receipts, Oklahoma high on list

Originally published in the Native American Times.

WASHINGTON D.C. — A new report on the economic power of Native business owners reveals that American Indian and Alaska Native-owned firms had receipts of \$26.9 billion.

The census bureau study looks at figures from 2002 and shows that Oklahoma tops the chart in several categories, including states with the highest number of companies owned by tribal members. There were 17,097 Native-run businesses in the state, second only to California’s 38,125. The national total is 201,387. Texas, New York and Florida rounded out the top five.

Oklahoma’s Indian companies represent just over eight-percent of the state’s total businesses.

The city with the most Indian-owned firms is New York, with Los Angeles second and the New Mexico town of Gallup ranking third.

The survey defined American Indian and Alaska native-owned businesses as firms in which Natives own 51 percent or more of the stock or equity of the business.

Other information from the report:
-Nearly 3-in-10 American Indian and Alaska Native-owned firms operated in construction and other services (such as personal services, and repair and maintenance).
-Almost 1-in-8 American Indian and Alaska Native-owned firms had paid employees. These 24,498 businesses employed more than 191,270 people and generated revenues of nearly \$22 billion, or about \$897,489 per firm.

-There were 3,631 American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more. These firms accounted for 1.8 percent of the total number of American Indian- and Alaska native-owned firms and more than 64 percent of their total receipts.

-There were 178 American Indian and Alaska Native owned firms with 100 employees or more, generating nearly \$5.3 billion in gross receipts (24 percent of the total revenue for American Indian- and Alaska native-owned employer firms).

-American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses with no paid employees numbered 176,889 with receipts of \$4.9 billion. Average receipts of these businesses were \$27,623 per firm.

Future Farm Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — Future Farms 2006, from Farm to Table, the Kerr Center’s biannual conference will be held , August 25, at the Clarion Conference Center in Oklahoma City. Early registration, by August 21, is only \$25.

This year’s conference will focus on selling locally-grown foods to public schools, colleges, and other institutions and restaurants. The conference is aimed at farmers and people working in food service, and anyone else interested in selling or using locally grown foods.

The conference is sponsored by the Kerr Center, in partnership with the USDA’s Risk Management Agency.

The conference will feature an Oklahoman-grown lunch. Complete information on speakers and hotel accommodations, and a registration form is available on-line at www.kerrcenter.com or by calling the Center for local Government Technology at (405) 744 - 6049.

Brunner’s Lawn Service

OKMULGEE — Rick Brunner’s Lawn Service takes pride in well cut lawns. He doesn’t care whether the lawns are Residential or Commercial. His motto is “You call, I cut.”

You can reach Rick Brunner at (918) 227 - 0397 at home or during work hours a (918) 224 - 5770.

Poll Says: Public Supports Indian Gaming

Originally published in the Native American Times, written by Sam Lewin.

A just-released poll shows that almost two-thirds of American citizens support Indian gaming.

The independent polling firm of Fairbanks, Maslin, Maullin and Associates conducted the survey of 1,000 registered voters. The poll has a three-percent margin of error.

The poll’s results reveal 84 percent of those queried support tribal government efforts to promote economic self-sufficiency, job growth and new economic opportunities.

Indian gaming supporters were buoyed by the poll.

“This poll is great news for Indian Country,” said National Indian Gaming Association chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr. “It shows our neighbors across America support our efforts to be self-reliant and they understand gaming creates economic opportunity and helps preserve and protect our way of life.”

According to the poll, 81 percent agree that Indian tribes benefit from Indian casinos; 78 percent agree that Indian gaming provides revenues that tribes use for essential services to tribal members and 77 percent agree that Indian gaming provides jobs for tribal members.

Over seven out of every ten voters responded yes when asked if gaming is essential to Native American tradition. A similar number of respondents also agreed that there is “substantial regulation” of tribal casinos.

“We have always been proud of Indian gaming’s stringent regulatory system and know that our gaming facilities are among the best in the world,” said Stevens. “It is heartening for us that the American public realizes that no one cares more about the integrity of Indian gaming than the tribes themselves.”

“The American people continue to show strong support for Indian gaming,” said pollster Paul Maslin. “They believe it helps the tribes become more self reliant and they strongly believe regulation should be handled between tribal govern-

ments and the states—not the federal government.”

Official said the survey also pointed to a growing trend: Gambling generated tourism of Native American communities. More than half the people living in America have now journeyed to Indian Country.

“We are happy that so many Americans are visiting... and sharing the beauty of our land, our people and our culture,” said Stevens. “We have a history across Indian Country that we are proud to share with visitors. We want all Americans to understand and appreciate our past and support our efforts to build a better future for our children.”

Request for Muscogee Business information

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department is accepting information on Muscogee owned and / or operated businesses and Muscogee business owners. If you, or someone you know, owns or operates a business and is a Muscogee Citizen write in and let us know about them and let us let everyone else know about them as well. It doesn’t matter if their business is a multinational corporation or doing bead work and selling it out of their house, all Muscogee owned or operated businesses are applicable.

This is a service of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department, there is no cost to our citizens for this.

Information on businesses will be ran as space permits and on a first come first served basis. Pictures will be allowed if space permits.

Please send information to: Muscogee Creek Nation Communications Department, ICO: Joshua Slane, P. O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447 or e-mail the stories to jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov. If you would like more information about what you can submit, please call Josh at 918 - 732 - 7638.
Mvto.

Tulsa Casino Promotions:

\$500K Free for All Giveaway
Daily August 1, 2006 – January 1, 2007

Cash Drawings at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., and 11 p.m.

Join us at Creek Nation Casino as we give away a half million dollars in the all new “\$500K Free for All Giveaway”. Be a part of \$500 cash drawings every Sunday through Thursday and \$250 cash drawings on Fridays and Saturdays. Come back every Sunday at 11 p.m. for the weekly prize drawing for \$2,500. Then on August 31 at 11 p.m., the monthly prize drawing will be held for \$5,000. All players who win any of the drawings will come back on January 1 for the \$100,000 grand prize!

Rock ‘n Roll Fantasy (Men’s Night)

Half-hour Cash Drawings on Wednesdays
Now through October 4

One man will become a rock legend at Creek Nation Casino – Tulsa when we award him with a trip for two to Las Vegas to stay in the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and a limited edition Gibson Cross Roads Eric Clapton 335 Guitar. This rare guitar is an exact replica of the one that the legendary Eric Clapton played, and is one of 300 in existence. Half hour cash drawings begin at 7 p.m. every Wednesday and continue until 10 p.m. At 10 p.m. two guys will win \$500 and will choose from one of five Gibson guitars on display. Each week’s qualifiers will return on October 4 for a chance at the Grand Prize.

Rockin’ the Night Away (Ladies Night)

Half-hour Cash Drawings on Mondays
Now through October 2

Ladies, you will be “Rockin’ the Night Away” on Ladies Night with a chance to win a trip for two to New York and a \$10,000 shopping spree at the world famous Tiffany and Co. For a chance at this wonderful prize package just stop by Guest Services on Monday nights starting at 6 p.m. and swipe your Players Club card. Half hour cash drawings begin at 7 pm and continue until 10 p.m. At 10 p.m., two ladies will be awarded \$500, and each week’s qualifiers will return on October 2 for a chance at the Grand Prize.

Wired in to Win

Sunday through Wednesday starting at 11 p.m.
Now through September 27

Stay up late with us and get wired in with the latest in technology with our new “Wired in to Win” promotion. Drawings will occur from 12 a.m. to 2 a.m. each Sunday through Wednesday. The 12 a.m. drawing will be for a Sony PSP gaming system. The 1 a.m. drawing will be for a 30g Apple Video iPod. The 2 a.m. drawing will be for \$500. On August 30 and September 27 we will end each month with a bang as the 2 a.m. drawing on those dates is for a Sony Vaio laptop. Register at Guest Services beginning at 11 p.m. each Sunday through Wednesday.

Sunday Tournament Takedown

Machine Tournament on Sundays at 7 p.m.
Now through September 27
Battle your way through 29 other

competitors in the return of machines tournaments with “Sunday Tournament Takedown.” Begin qualifying at 7 p.m. every Sunday in August and September to be one of 30 participants in the tournament. This \$5 match play tournament will consist of five rounds of six players. Each player will begin with \$10 in credits and will have 60 seconds to achieve the highest credit total. The top score from each round will advance to the finals to compete for that week’s championship. First place will be awarded \$250, second will be awarded \$100, and third place will be awarded \$50.

Seniors Wake Up and Win

Mondays and Tuesdays, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Seniors, rise and shine at Creek Nation Casino Mondays and Tuesdays in August. From 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., the first 500 seniors will receive \$5 match play on any SED or HEST machine and \$4 off the Full Moon Café’s \$5.99 breakfast buffet. What better way to start the day than with Creek Nation Casino’s Wake Up and Win promotion?

For the Love of Blackjack

Sunday through Wednesday
The blackjack pit is the only place to play for \$250 cash drawings every half hour Monday through Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m. If that’s not enough, on Sundays we bump the drawings up to \$500 with three winners every hour from noon to 6 p.m.! All you have to do to earn your shot at winning some of this cash is to gain an entry into the drawings by receiving a suited blackjack of hearts or buying in for \$100 at any table in the pit. You may gain entries 24 hours a day, seven days a

week. Every time a suited blackjack of hearts is awarded, that player receives a \$10 bonus and everyone else at the table earns our famous Envy Bonus of \$5.

Ladies Night

No Limit Texas Hold’em
Mondays at 7 p.m. - \$30 Buy in

Men’s Night

The Big One
No Limit Texas Hold’em
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.- \$115 Buy in

The Big Bounty

Poker Tournament
Thursdays & Sundays at 7 p.m. - \$115 Buy in

Daily River Showdown

No Limit Texas Hold’em
Every day at 9:30 a.m.- \$50 Buy in.

Texas Hold’em Progressive Bad Beat Jackpots

Three separate jackpots will be paid on aces full of jacks losing to a better hand.

Watch the jackpots grow daily!
Jackpot currently at \$50,000!

Several people have already walked away with thousands, come win your share. (Pictures of past winners)

Winning hand may collect one jackpot per win

Texas Hold’em Progressive High Hands

24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Good Hands are Hard to Come By

The following High Hands will increase by \$100 each day
Four of a Kind
Straight Flush
Royal Flush

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

MCN Division of Health Administration

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health offers a wide range of medical and life-style advancements within the boundaries of the Creek Nation for it's citizens. The Division of Health can offer extensive and thorough care to each citizen through the practice of qualified medical professionals and caring staff.

Tobacco Prevention Program
Program Director,
Cynthia Coachman
Grand Street, Okmulgee
918-756-6231

Diabetes Prevention Program
Diabetes Coordinator,
Johnnie Brassuell
1801 East 4th, Okmulgee
918-756-3334 extension 248

Behavioral Health Services
Clinical Director,
Dailey Tearl LMFT, LADC
100 West 7th Street, Okmulgee
918-758-1910

Contract Health Services
Program Manager, Laura Mackey
206 South Grand Street, Okmulgee
918-758-2710

Okemah Hospital
309 North 14th Street, Okemah
918-623-1424

Women Infant & Children (WIC)
WIC Director, Misty Rains RD/LD
Hwy 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee
918-758-2722

Vocational Rehabilitation Program
Program Coordinator, Mary Lee
213 N. 2nd, Okemah
918-623-1197

CHR Program
Manager, Cyndi Gilks
700 N. Mission, Okmulgee
918-756-1941

Elderly Nutrition Program
Manager, Steve Wilson
1801 East 4th, Okmulgee
918-758-2727

Care Giver Program
Teresa Jennings
1801 East 4th, Okmulgee
918-758-2727

Eufaula Health Center
800 Forest Ave, Eufaula
918-689-2547

Okmulgee Health Center
1313 East 20th, Okmulgee
918-758-1926

Sapulpa Health Center
1125 E. Cleveland, Sapulpa
918-224-9310

Koweta Health Facility
31870 East Hwy 51, Coweta
918-279-3200

“Mvskoke Nene Hvkoce (Trails) Program” MCN Community Walking Program

by Scott Robison, Diabetes Program

OKMULGEE — Walking can keep us healthy. Many scientific studies have shown that regular brisk walking prevents and cures many of today’s ailments. One of the most important studies showed that walking can prevent diabetes. The Diabetes Prevention Study completed in 2002 clearly showed that regular walking and losing only 7% of body weight significantly prevented the onset of diabetes in persons who had pre-diabetes.¹ Some experts estimate that 80% of heart disease and 90% of type 2 diabetes could be prevented through better life-style habits.²

Because of the negative impact of diabetes on its citizens and because of the realistic hopeful fact that diabetes can be prevented, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) is initiating a walking program. The National Council gave funding to the Tribal Diabetes Program to start a MCN wide walking program.

This program is called the “Mvskoke Nene Hvkoce (Trails) Program.” This incentive based walking program is for all American Indian individuals 12 years and older in all communities within the MCN jurisdictional boundaries.

The program will encourage its citizens to find a way to become more physically active all year round through the seasonal changes. Special recognition and incentives will encourage life style walking that favorably impacts health. Communities that have shown high interest and participation will be recognized for their efforts by being considered as a priority community for a tribally-funded walking path.

Some of the highlights of this program include:

- Monthly fitness events in the five clinic communities.
- Recognition for communities and individuals who are participating in the program.
- Preprinted logs with the point and incentive system will be provided and explained. Participants may use pedometer steps, time or distance to track their activity. Pedometers will be provided.
- Incentives including sports towel, hats/visor, Nike gym bag, Program t-shirt, Exercise shoes, Nike running suit, and End of Year Raffle for three significant prizes such as treadmills or other exercise equipment.
- Community walking trails are being planned for the communities with the most participation and interest.

Times:

- The program will begin October 2006 and continue until July 2007.
- Program sign up will begin September 2006.

More information will be provided in next months Creek Nation newspaper. (Footnotes)

¹ DPP Study

² Willett, Walter, Presentation to the American Society of Nephrology. Chairman of the Harvard School of Public Health Department.

Tribal citizens recognized for outstanding service in the health field

OKLAHOMACITY — Two tribal citizens, Cindy Harjo-Gilks and Sara R. Kernell, were among those honored at a recent awards banquet held in Oklahoma City.

Cyndi Harjo-Gilks, Community Health Representative Manager of the Creek Nation (CHR) Program, has worked for CHR Program the last five years. Previously, Gilks served as a (CHR) within the community from 1997 to 2001.

She initiated the plan for the Community Volunteer Incentive Program, which focuses on encouraging community members to build relationships with homebound community elders. The program is designed to help community members receive household goods and clothing items in exchange for volunteering.

Gilks is an active member of the Oklahoma Area Association of CHRs and currently resides as President of the Association. She has strengthened partnerships with the Indian Health Services through community Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Programs, including Poison Prevention, Early Kidney Evaluation, and Lupus Screenings. On a national level, she partnered with the CDC to broaden the Antibiotic Resistance Get Smart Program health message. She has used her love of acting and comedy to develop skits on vital health issues. The skits are used as teaching tools for children and adults.



C. Gilks

Sara R. Kernell, RN, BSN Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, has been with the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic since April 2004 as a Public Health Nurse.

Sara is recognized for her outstanding and meticulous care she has taken with the Clinic’s Breast Care Program. Her initial obstacle was to update the OKCIC Resource Patient Management System, having for the most part, to train herself on the system. She then faced the daunting task of tracking 3,341 women, all of whom needed proper care and follow-up.

Currently, Sara tracks a total of 4,108 women in the registry. With her continued diligence, the no show rate for mammograms has decreased from 56% prior to the beginning of the program to 21% currently. She sees approximately 100 women per month and does follow up referrals, manages the RPMS women’s registry, and runs monthly reports and statistics.

This year alone, approximately 300 women have been screened from January to March 2006, compared to approximately 709 for the entire year of 2003. Sara has represented the OKCIC Breast Care Program at numerous events and was invited to give a presentation at the National Susan G. Komen Mission Conference in 2005 in Washington, D.C. She has



S. Kernell

ensured continuation of the Breast Care Program by being awarded a grant for the third consecutive year from the Central Oklahoma Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Care Program. The results she has produced ensure that women being served by the OKCIC have the opportunity to detect breast cancer in its early and most treatable stages.

“I would like to acknowledge the dedicated employees of the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban (I/T/U) Health Programs as each of you strive daily to improve the health and welfare of over 300,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives living in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas,” said Area Director John J. Daugherty, Jr.

“It is your devotion to the Agency’s mission that creates a better future for us all.”

Daugherty went on to praise the health workers for the positive impacts they have on their patients. “I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude for all your contributions throughout the years,” he said. “It is through individuals like you that the Indian Health Service, Tribal, and Urban Health Programs have been able to make a positive difference in the lives of the American Indians and Alaska Natives. I wish you all the best with your continuing career and future life endeavors.



J. Daugherty, Jr.

Mvskokvlke P.R.I.D.E 2006 Summer Youth Prevention Camps

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Program held their Summer Youth Prevention camps from July 17 – August 10 at Okemah, Okmulgee, Eufaula, and Sapulpa.

The program partnered with churches, schools and tribal agencies to offer these four day youth camps that stressed the prevention of diabetes. Each day was filled with physical activity, education, and fun. Healthy snacks and meals were provided. The topics covered included: What is Diabetes? What is Pre Diabetes? What is Happening in My Body? What Foods are Best for Me? Is it Possible to Make Healthier Choices at a Fast Food Place? My Decision to be Healthy and Choose to be Active and Prevent Diabetes. Some of the activities on the camp agendas included: golf clinic, swimming, stickball, soccer clinic (provide by the Oklahoma Soccer Association), bowling, skating, fitness games and activities.

A diabetes risk assessment was also done with each camper. This assessment included BMI percentile, screening for acanthosis nigricans, family history of diabetes, lifestyle questions on amount of daily exercise, amount of TV watching and video games play per day, consumption of greasy foods and sugary foods and drinks each day.

This assessment gave each camper and their parents an idea of their child’s risk for diabetes.

On the third day of camp, a parent/family education session was offered for

families to review their child’s diabetes risk assessment and explore the families’ role in preventing diabetes.

Last day of camp was a field trip to Big Splash water park in Tulsa.

The first two camps of the summer (Okemah and Okmulgee) had 30 and 26 campers participate. Eufaula’s and Sapulpa’s camps will be held July 31 – Aug. 3 and Aug. 7 – 10.



HOUSING DIVISION CONTINUES
MAKING PROGRESS DURING
THIRD QUARTER

The MCN Housing Division’s third quarter report has shown significant progress in meeting its goals for the 2006 fiscal year. With the development of the Alternative Housing Program and the Mortgage Assistance Program, the Housing Division is continuing to increase the number of Creek Citizens served through the Housing Programs.

HOMEOWNERSHIP

Providing Native Americans the opportunity for Homeownership through the Lease With Option to Purchase and the Mortgage Assistance Program.

TOTAL FAMILIES HOUSED THIS QUARTER 59
ACQUISITION
8 Purchased
NEW CONSTRUCTION
9 Built
VACANT HOUSES
7 Housed
MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE
21 Closings



26 New Construction homes are projected for the fourth quarter

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Construction Services provides rehabilitation services for privately-owned homes for Tribal Citizens who live within the Creek Nation boundaries. Construction Services also provides services for the Value Improvement Program (VIP), vacant Mutual Help homes, Low Rent units, and other NAHASDA units that are a part of the Housing Inventory.

REHAB OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOMES
23 completed
ALTERNATIVE HOUSING
14 Completed
OTHER HOUSING INVENTORY UNITS
53 completed



FORCE ACCOUNT

Force Account provides emergency home repair services for applicants who have qualified for the Privately Owned Homes Program and are on the waiting list. They also provide services for other Housing Division properties.

TOTAL EMERGENCY REPAIRS COMPLETED
427

RENTAL PROPERTIES

The Housing Division Rental Properties Program provides low cost rental housing for Native American families. The Affordable Housing Program consists of four rental properties located in Okmulgee, Okemah, Checotah, Eufaula and an Elderly Housing addition also located in Okmulgee. All families are selected from a waiting list.



RESIDENTS HOUSED
Checotah 41
Eufaula 47
Okemah 47
Okmulgee 68
Elderly Housing (Okm) 14

COMMUNITY SHIELD

The Community Shield Program offers home protection coverage for homeowners and renters. Participants in the program must be Muscogee (Creek) Citizens and live within the state of Oklahoma.

CREEK CITIZENS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM
72

COMMUNITY SHIELD
PROTECTION PROGRAM



Offering protection for Creek Citizens against property damage caused by fire, storm, or other natural disasters.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division/Authority is now offering property coverage for Creek Citizens who are renting or own their own homes.

The program offers coverage for both homeowners and renters. Coverages includes home protection for homeowners, personal property, personal liability, and emergency living expenses.

To be eligible for the program applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Citizens, reside within the state of Oklahoma and use the dwelling to be covered as their principle place of residence.

The Housing Division and Amerind Risk Management retain the right to inspect the covered property, and require loss prevention efforts on part of the participants and does not assume responsibility for maintenance of the covered property.

The participant will be solely responsible for filing all claims directly to Amerind with claim payments based on replacement cost up to the coverage limits.

For more information about the program contact

Lenora McPerryman

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Housing
(918) 756-8504 or 800-259-5050 Ext. 4117

Helping our
Tribal Citizens
Realize the
Dream of
Homeownership

Providing help through the
Mortgage Assistance Program

Many Native American families find it difficult becoming a homeowner due to the high out of pocket cost of obtaining a mortgage loan.

The Mortgage Assistance Program is designed to help our Tribal Citizens realize their dream of becoming a homeowner by providing financial assistance needed to acquire a mortgage loan to eligible applicants.

For More Information Contact:

MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM
P.O. Box 297
Okmulgee, Ok 74447
1-800-259-5050
918-759-4137

The Mortgage Assistance Program
is a program of the

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
DIVISION OF HOUSING

To be eligible for the program, clients must meet the following requirements established by The Mortgage Assistance Program and by the Native American Housing Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).

- Be a first time home buyer.
- Live within the state of Oklahoma.
- Not be an existing or former Mutual Help Participant of NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with option to Purchase regardless of a Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, Citizenship card for preference purposes, Social Security cards, and employment verification for each working family member on the required forms.
- Sign all required forms including the consent for disclosure of information.
- Be able to meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.
- Preference given to Creek Citizens.

Eligible clients may qualify for up to \$25,000.



THANKS FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Former long time Housing Division employee Stan Peak was honored with a retirement party after twenty-five years with housing and five more with Environmental Services. Stan started as an inspector for the Housing Development Department and later transferred to Environmental Services for the final 5 years of his career. “Its really been great working here, stated Stan, I’ve seen alot of changes, the way they’ve opened things up, improving houses.”

Trail of Tears T-Shirts Available New
OKMULGEE — The Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride will return to Okmulgee and the Muscogee Nation Monday, September 18.

Riders from all over the United States will arrive at the Creek Council House Museum at 3 p.m. where they will be greeted with cold water and special sidewalk sales from the downtown merchants. After they have rested a while, the group will move to another location (to be announced) for a Cultural Celebration, including music by the Native Praise Choir and a Victory Stompdance led by the Tallahassee Wvkokaye, as well as Muscogee cultural exhibits and artists.

Official Ride T-shirts are available now and can be purchased at the Office of the Second Chief and the Trade and Commerce Authority for \$15. Profits will go directly to help fund the welcome activities for the Ride. For more information or to order t-shirts for your department or group, contact Vicky Karhu at (918) 470-3819.

Fleamarket/Indian taco/Sr. citizens bake sale
TWIN HILLS — On Aug. 12, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a flea market/Indian taco/Sr.citizen bake sale at Twin Hill Indian Community center, located at the corner on Hwy 16 and Hwy 52. Outside setups are free and the inside setups are \$5.00. For more information contact Sharon at (918) 733-2786.

Communications beginning a new project
OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications is beginning a new project for the 2006 Council Oak ceremony. We are requesting pictures, stories and histories of the Ceremonial grounds. Especially pictures of Mekkos, Henekas, Tvstvntkes, Helisayas, Hompetv Hayas, families and all members of that particular ground. We will also use pictures from previous Council Oak Ceremonies and of the Mekko’s meeting that will be included in this video project. All submissions will be included in a short documentary type DVD of where we came from and where we are today, and how we kept our traditions alive. Please bring information to the Communications department located at the main complex. We understand how precious these items are, we will scan and return the pictures when you come to the office. For more information contact Ruth Bible at (918) 732-7642.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Division of Health

CEO - Division of Health Administration
Academic training through the Masters level in one of the public or allied health sciences, Business or Management fields. Substantial experience managing public health programs which encompasses work in the following direct health care activities; Hospital/Ambulatory Care, Preventative/Rehabilitation/Contract Health services. In addition, candidates must clearly show demonstrated ability to work with health care professional organizations at the State or National level. Evidence of an extensive amount of professional development and accomplishments as evidenced by promotions, career broadening assignments, demonstrated ability in public and professional presentations, active participation in professional organizations recipient of award of honors from nationally recognized associations for excellence and/or outstanding contributions to the field.

Clinical Director - Behavioral Health Services
A Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an accredited college/university. Five (5) years experience as a licensed psychologist. Five (5) years of managerial or supervisory experience. Current Licensure by the State of Oklahoma as a Psychologist or Health Ser-

Creek citizen announces candidacy for Congressional District
WASHINGTON — Issaquah School Board member Larry Ishmael announced his candidacy for the United States Congress.

Ishmael said, “I have been listening to people complain about Congress, and decided it was time to make a real difference. The First District needs better leadership; Congress needs better leadership.”

“Larry Ishmael is a great candidate,” said Washington State Republican Party Chairwoman Diane Tebelius. “Larry Ishmael is an excellent fit for the 1st Congressional District and we are very pleased to have him running as the Republican candidate. The 1st District is a real ‘swing district,’ and Jay Inslee is going to have a tough race on his hands.”

L a r r y Ishmael’s long time friend Dino Rossi said about Larry, “Larry’s depth of knowledge and expertise in education and international policy will immediately place him as a leader in Congress.”



Ishmael’s Issaquah School Board colleague Mike Winkler described Larry as, “the education expert that Congress needs.” Winkler went on to say, “As a member of the Federal Relations Network of the Washington State School Directors’ Association, Larry’s knowledge of education issues at a federal level is unparalleled. In today’s global economy education is a more important issue than ever before, and, frankly, Congress’s weak understanding of education shocks me. We need Larry Ishmael in Congress.”

Larry has been married to his wife, a high school teacher, for over 30 years; they have 3 sons. Their oldest son is married and lives in Kirkland, their middle son and his wife are currently serving in the Peace Corps in the Kyrgyz Republic, and their youngest just completed his first year at Whitman College in Walla Walla.

For further information contact Campaign Manager Will Nicolls at (206) 898-0649.

vices Psychologist is required.

Staff Dentist - Sapulpa
A DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or, a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements.

Physician
Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. and must possess a current State of Oklahoma license to practice medicine, a DEA license. Medicare provider agreement, and ACLS certification. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine and/or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the Health System.

Nurse Practitioner - (Float Status)
Successful completion of an accredited

The Davis Correctional Facility

HOLDENVILLE — On July 14, Reintegration Program staff Tony Fish, Program Coordinator; Andrea Alexander, Case Manager, and Fredo Anderson Case Manager, accompanied by 6 of Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees, including Executive Director Claude Sumner, two National Council members, and one volunteer; visited the Davis Correctional Facility. The guest speaker was Principal Chief A.D. Ellis.

The facility is a medium security prison ran by Correction Corporation of America (CCA).

Davis has a population of 960 male inmates. Located in Hughes County, the Davis Correctional Facility was opened in 1996. It was built by the city of Holdenville and purchased by CCA, which is a private run facility. The Davis Correctional Facility recently celebrated 10 years of operation.

The Davis Correctional Facility has a



Fredo (Chubby) Anderson, Tony Fish, Kandy Badgewell, Donna Kaler, Andrea Alexander, Angela Fields, Claude Sumner, and Jan Heart.

housing unit specially for drug sanctioned inmates called Therapeutic Community. This treatment program teaches inmates how to live life without the use of drugs or substance abuse.

Another housing unit is dedicated to inmates who are on level four (highest level) called the Honor Dorm. The inmates are rewarded for their good behavior by living in an environment that is less restricted and they have the option of participating in functions that the general population doesn’t get.

The Kiros pod is a religious pod that houses inmates of various religions who activate participate in their religion. This pod has outside sponsors who come and hold services and groups for the various religions. The other two pods are general population pods usually for inmates who do not fit into any of the other programs.



SEPTEMBER 4, 2006
City of Henryetta
Tennis Courts

**Sponsored by
4 Love of the Game**

Entry Fee is \$60
Four player roster
Each player receives a t-shirt

Boys & Girls
Ages: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14,
15-16, & 17-18
Free Throw - 3pt Contest
Deadline is Aug. 25
Late entry Aug. 30 (Add \$15)

For more info call (918) 650-3920
or visit www.4loveofthegame.org
to download entry form & rules

course of study specifically designed for training professional Mid-Level Providers. Three (3) years of relevant experience. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AAMC or other body established for this purpose.

Physician Assistant - (2 Positions)
Successful completion of an accredited course of study specifically designed for training professional Mid-Level Providers. One (1) year of relevant experience preferred. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AAMC or other body established for this purpose.

I.T. Site Manager - Coweta
Associate’s Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or related field is preferred. High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. One (1) year of work experience in computer science, information technology or related field. A combination of education and relevant work experience may be considered in lieu for the above education qualification preferences. Incumbent must be insurable and valid Oklahoma Driver’s License is required.

Registered Nurse - CNCH
Incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited professional school of nursing. One (1) of relevant experience required. Incumbent must possess a current State of Oklahoma

Nursing license.

Optometrist
O.D. Degree received from an accredited college of Optometry. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience. Valid License issued by the State of Oklahoma to practice Optometry.

Security Guard (Unarmed)-Temporary-Coweta
High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of program or training required to perform duties as an unarmed security guard. Training must be C.L.E.E.T. accredited and meet requirements for training for the state of Oklahoma. One (1) year of relevant work experience in same or related setting. Valid C.L.E.E.T. (Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training) License for unarmed guard is required.

Medical Lab Technician - Okemah
High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Successful completion of 60 semester hours of academic credit necessary to satisfy requirements of the position as well as a structured curriculum in Medical Laboratory Techniques at an accredited institution is preferred. Two (2) years of relevant full-time Laboratory experience performing highly complex testing as a Technician Trainee may be substituted for the educational requirements. Certification as a MLT through the ASCP is preferred.

For more information, visit the website at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/health%20administration/Jobs.htm or call (918) 756-4333 or (800) 782-8291.

Custom made vests available for Veterans

OKMULGEE — The National Council recently approved legislation to appropriate funding to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Office for 300 custom-made service branch vests. The legislation was unanimously approved by a vote of 22 in favor and 0 against.

“Both Principal Chief Ellis and Second Chief Berryhill enthusiastically endorsed this service,” said Davis. “The legislation was sponsored by Representative Anthony Notaro, and co-sponsored by Representatives Shirlene Ade, Samuel Alexander, Roger Barnett, Pete Beaver, Larry Bible, Johnnie Greene, Duke Harjo, Bo Johnson, Keeper Johnson, Robert Jones, Tom Pickering, Cherrah Quiett, George Tiger and Tho-

mas Yahola.”

According to Veterans Affairs Director Ken Davis, the service branch vests will be constructed to individual measurements and are free of charge. The vests can be worn anywhere at anytime as desired. Davis encourages veterans to wear the vests during the annual Veterans Day Ceremony and the forthcoming



grand opening of the new Veterans’ building next year.

To obtain a branch service vest, veterans must provide a copy of their Military Discharge and must have been discharged with one Honorable, General Under Honorable Conditions, or Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. Measurements will be taken every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Veteran’s office by the seamstress.

When the vests are complete, each veteran will be contacted and may

pick-up the vest at the Veteran’s office. Only one vest per veteran will be made.

For those veterans unable to come to the Veteran’s office for measurements, their measurements can be mailed in. Below is a guide on how to measure for the vest: shoulder tip to shoulder tip, collarbone front down to middle of belt loop, nap of the back of neck to the middle of belt loop, measure around waist over the belly button, and chest measurement.

For more information or to send measurements, mail to: Ken Davis, VASO, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P.O. Box 580, Hwy 75 & Loop 56, Okmulgee, OK 74447. Davis can also be reached at (918) 732-7739 or e-mail : kendavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

College of the Musocoee Nation Signs Charter of Formation

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation, is the Muscogee Nation Tribal College initiative created by an act of the National Council (NCA 04-151, NCA 05-072) and signed in to law by Principal Chief A.D. Ellis on September 1, 2004.

On July 19 Chief Ellis, the Board of Regents and many other dignitaries gathered together for an historical event for the College of the Muscogee Nation. The signing of the Tribal College Charter, which is a official document that establishes the tribal college of the Muscogee nation. The signing took place at the Human Development Building, during the ceremony all the dignitaries were asked to say a few words about the college and its progress. Ramona Mason, Chairman of the Regents, thanked everyone who attended the historical event and also thanked everyone who has been a helping hand in the starting of the college. Chief Ellis stated how important this is to him because education is our future and by getting our people the proper education will help them in many ways.

The National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, pursuant to its inherent authority, has enacted NCA 04-151 as amended by NCA 05-072, codified as Chapter 4 in Title 18, “Education,” of the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation which established the Muscogee Nation Tribal College as a nonprofit public corporation (hereinafter referred to as the “College”) and an independent agency of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, does hereby charter the College of the Muscogee Nation as a nonprofit public corporation.

Article I. Name: the name of this nonprofit public corporation will be the College of the Muscogee Nation (hereinafter referred to as the “College”)

Article II. Principal Office: The Principal Office of the College shall be located at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex, Division of Human Development Building, Loop 56 and Highway 75, mailing address being P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

Article III. Duration: The existence of the College shall be perpetual.

Article IV. Establishment of Board of Regents: The governing body of the College shall be its Board of Regents. The Board shall establish all rules and regula-

tions upon which this corporation shall operate and they shall be consistent with this Charter.

Article V. Purposes and Powers: The College shall be created exclusively as a charitable and educational institution of higher learning. The College will provide curricular and academic programs awarding degrees and certificates for post-secondary and continuing education. The College will promote scholarly research, preserve the Muscogee language, history, and culture and provide educational activities to further the cultural integrity of the Muscogee people.

Article VI. Limitation: No part of the net earnings of the College will inure to the benefit of, nor be distributed to its regents, administrative officers, or any other entity, except that the College shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered or goods provided in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article V. above.

Article VII. Limited Liability and Indemnification: The regents and administrative officers of the College shall not be personally liable for any of the obligations of the College. The College shall indemnify any regent or administrative officer of the College against any judgments, penalties or fines including attorneys’ fees asserted against and incurred by that person in or arising from his/her official duties.

Article VIII. By-Laws: The Board of Regents shall create By-Laws to govern the conduct of the business before the Board of Regents. The By-Laws shall be adopted by the Board of Regents at a regular meeting or at any special meeting of he Board of Regents that is duly called for that purpose. The Bylaws shall identify the overall structure and operation of the College through the Board of Regents. The By-Laws of the Board of Regents may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Regents, provided, however, that the By-Laws or any amendment to the By-Laws shall not be inconsistent with this Charter.

Article IX. Implementation: This Charter shall take effect and be in full force from and after its approval and passage by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and shall remain in effect until dis-



Back row L to R: Dr. King, Mike Flud, Jerry Wilson, Dr. Pete Coser, George Tiger, Middle row: Jackie Munds, Claude Sumner, Angela Roma, Diana Blackwell, Judge Patrick E. Moore, Sitting: Robert Bible, Sharon Mouss, Chief A.D. Ellis, Romana Mason, Dr. C. Blue. Clark, Pandee Ramirez.

solved by resolution of the National Council.

Article X. Severability: The provisions of this Charter are severable; if any part or provision hereof shall be held void by the National Council or Tribal court, that decision shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions of the Charter.

Article XI. Sovereign Immunity: The College is clothed by both federal and Tribal Law with all the privileges and immunities of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, including sovereign immunity from suit in any state, federal or Tribal court. Nothing contained in this Charter shall be deemed or construed to be consent to the jurisdiction of the Courts of the United States, or of any State with regard to the business or affairs of the College. Nothing herein nor any action of the College shall be deemed or construed to a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Board of Regents may request a waiver of sovereign immunity through the governing body of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation if the Board deems it is necessary to conduct the business of the College.

Article XII. Reporting to Tribal Governing Authority: To establish and maintain effective communications on institutional activities, goals, accomplishments and needs the Board of Regents of the College will be responsible for providing annual, or as requested, reports to the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Article XIII. Amendments to the Charter: This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Regents of the College.

Article XIV. Dissolution: The property of the College is irrevocably dedicated to charitable and educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of the College shall ever inure to the benefit of any Regent or employee thereof or to the benefit of any private person. The College may be dissolved only upon the affirmative unanimous vote of the Board of Regents of the college. Upon dissolution or liquidation of the College, the Board of Regents will, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the College, dispose of all of the assets of the College to any organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or he corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Board of Regents shall determine. Any College assets not so disposed will be disposed of by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, to an organization which are organized and operated exclusively for Charitable or educational purposes.

Article XV. Charter Enactment Date: This Charter was approved at a duly convened and held meeting of the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents on July 19, 2006, and was duly granted by the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on July 19, 2006.

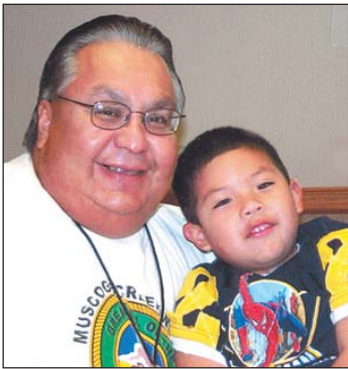
JOM family says final farewell

OKMULGEE — If you where to ask who the “Big Man on Campus” was for the MCN, you would hear “Belvin” or “Pudge”. Belvin worked for the MCN JOM Program since 2001 as the JOM Field Specialist. He loved his job, loved the MCN and loved life. During the weekly staff meeting, Belvin would lead us all in pray. He would pray for our Nation, for our Chief, for those in our leadership, for our programs and for guidance in our jobs.

Everyone around him couldn’t help from laughing along with him, teasing him or joining in with one of his many jokes he played on co-workers. Once he even called the office saying he was going to be late to

work because he couldn’t find his leg – it walked away.

For those of us in the JOM office, we not only lost a co-worker but we lost a member of our little family. It was not unusual for the JOM staff to share a breakfast meal together, share our lunch meals together or meet up in the evenings on special occasions not because we had too but we wanted too. Belvin could light up a room



B. Hill with grandson Tehelah Wind

and make you double over laughing when he told stories of his childhood or just what he did the day before.

Belvin was also well known throughout the United States as a true field specialist in the area of JOM. He gave workshop presentations at the Statewide JOM Conferences and National JOM Conferences. It was not unusual for him to assist a JOM program from a different tribe in a different state.

He shared his knowledge and his training materials with all who were in need. Just the day before he passed, he told his co-

workers that he always felt the proudest to tell people that he worked for MCN JOM Program. He was part of establishing the MCN JOM reputation of excellent in technical training for JOM programs on a national level. Then he kidding would say, “If you can work for Virginia, you can work for anyone.”

We will miss him dearly but we know where he is and we will meet again.

MCN JOM School Supply Information

OKMULGEE — Not all JOM school programs distribute school supplies. Those that do will usually advertise the dates in the local newspaper. So be watching for an announcement to appear in your paper. If you are in question as to whether your school will distribute school supplies, call your local school and ask to speak to the JOM coordinator and they will be able to give you the information. Also, not all schools in Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction belong to the Johnson-O’Malley program.

Each JOM program functions under the Indian Education Committee (IEC) which is the parents. Annually each JOM program sends out a ‘Needs Assessment’ to determine the priority list of ‘needs’ for their particular school. Many schools list school supplies at the top of their list, some schools do not. If your school is one that does not, it would be to your advantage to become involved in the IEC and become a part of the decision making.

Our JOM committees gladly welcome new parents to become a part of the JOM program, participate and be a part of the process in helping our students become the best. We at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation JOM program strive to make a difference for our students and our desire is for them to succeed.

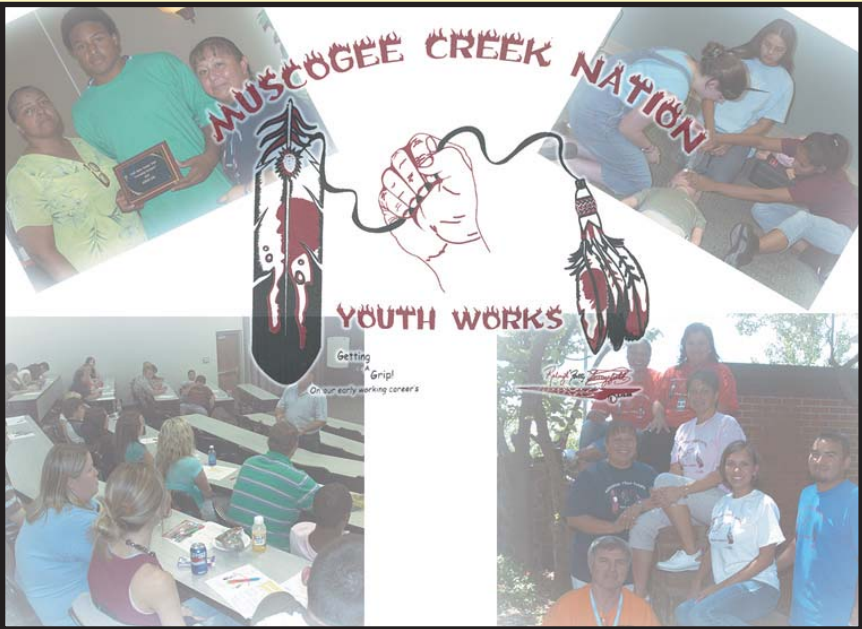
JTPA honors outstanding participates

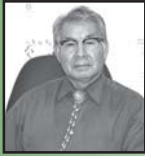
OKMULGEE — On July 27, the JTPA program honored its outstanding participates and worksites. Out of almost 500 summer youth workers and worksites they could only pick 14 participates and 7 worksites this year. The participate are picked by the good deeds they do at their worksites, their attendance and on many other categories, even though all the summer youth workers worked really hard, the program is only able to pick 2 participates and 1 worksite per counselor. This years winners are: Outstanding worksites: Okmulgee Daily Times, MCN GSA/Facilities, Alabama Quarsarte Tribal town , Henryetta High Schools, Busy Bee Learning Center, Bristow Housing Authority, Cherokee Clinic.

Outstanding Participants included Marcus Lewis-Okmulgee Police Dept.; Rachel Mayberry-Okmulgee Daily Times; Brittany Jackson-MCN CDC; Jaymee Bullett-Election Board; Spencer Underwood-Oliphant Ranch; Stephanie Purdom- Wetumka Clinic; Keshia Hicks-Okemah Hospital; Aaron Birdcreek-

Rural Water #3-McIntosh (Henryetta); Katelyn Howell-Katies Cafe; Michael Dan-Katies Cafe; Michelle Grayson- Country Lane; Tressie Poston- Bristow Veterinarian Hospital; Austin Moses- City of Muskogee Public

works; Adrian Lang- Haskel Headstart. This year Counselors included: Cindy Russell, Sabrina Lee, Tia Shelby, Milton Denny, Brandy Frye, Dusty Shipley, Jacque McGertt.





Mvskoke Elders update from the Senior Services Manager.



Honor Guard remembered and honored.



Late Bloomer Ready to Play College Basketball.



Culture, Tradition and the Boarding School Experience

PHOENIX — The Heard Museum is hosting the “*Remembering our Indian School Days: The Boarding School experience.*” This groundbreaking exhibition, which features historic photographs, memorabilia, artwork and first-person oral histories, explores the controversial education policy that was begun in 1879 and designed to assimilate and Americanize Native American children. The exhibit features pictures from the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. Also in the exhibit, audio and video from recent interviews.



Pueblo children before & after photo

From the founding of our country, and with the full backing of our leaders, official U.S. policy approved of removing Indian tribes from their lands to make room for American settlers. The push to settle the United States resulted in the gradual extermination or near extermination of the native tribes. In the late 1800’s the final solution to the Indian problem was created; take away their way of life, their language, culture and traditions. Their plan was as follows:

Step 1: Confine them to reservations: Indian Boarding Schools were created with the goal of acculturation and removing

the Indianness from the Indian; In removing children from their families, and by forbidding the use of the native language, Indian Boarding Schools created a communication barrier between children and parents; By attempting to destroy communications home, boarding schools became a method for obliterating Indian culture; By constantly emphasizing the “foolishness” of Indian culture, the goal was for children to be ashamed of being Indian: Upon returning home, having forgotten much of their language, the students struggled to communicate with their parents and other tribal members; Students and their parents had hoped that the years spent apart would pay off with jobs. But extreme poverty meant on-reservation jobs were few and off the reservation, racial prejudice was high. Some Indians were able to find jobs, but most of the graduates faced unemployment and returned home; *The survival of Indian culture today is evidence of the enduring strength of the Indian people. Despite the government’s attempts to “Kill the Indian”, the boarding schools could not destroy the deeply rooted traditions of Indian culture.*

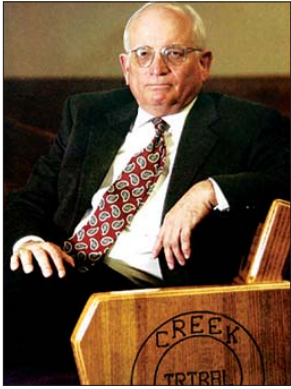
Step 2: Assimilate them into American society. In 1879, with approval from the government, Capt. Richard Pratt opened Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, the first off-reservation Indian boarding school. The Indian Boarding Schools were established to accomplish the second step, assimilation. Pratt was a military man and his only previous experience in education was running a school for prisoners. The plan was to “educate” the children by forcibly removing them from their people and destroying the communications home. If this goal was accomplished and communications were blocked, the schools would be able to eliminate the Indianness from the Indian. Pratt, founder of the first Indian Boarding School, summed up the program with “Kill the Indian... save the man.” At Carlisle, students were forced to abandon traditional Indian ways and adopt American customs. Students were told they were being “civilized” and “raised up” from an inferior way of life. Those who resisted change were called “bad Indians.” Likewise, those who assimilated quickly were classified as “good Indians.” It is ironic that at one time the plan the United States government had in store for us has helped us endure what they put us through. In 1891, Indian Commissioner Thomas Morgan stated at the opening of the Phoenix Indian School, “It’s cheaper to educate Indians than to kill them.” Officially, the boarding schools would teach the Indian children how to live in their new world. The exhibit will stir unexpected emotions, it will make you cry, it will make you angry, it will make you laugh. You will think of some of the staff and matrons, maybe

one or two that you will always remember that made a difference in your life. At one time we thought we were the only ones in the world that went through the boarding school experience. But across the United States there was another little Indian boy or girl, of another tribe that went through the same thing in another school somewhere hundreds or thousands of miles away. Some didn’t grow up like some of the children from Carlisle, but then some grew up and made changes in other Native American’s lives. But most of all if you attended any boarding school you can relate to this exhibit and if you happen to be in Phoenix this exhibit is a must see. Soon, more and more boarding schools such as Flandreau in South Dakota, Pipestone in Minnesota, and Phoenix in Arizona, opened up across the country. Oklahoma has had its share of boarding schools Chillico, Carter Seminary, Riverside, Sequoyah, Jones Academy and Eufaula Dormitory. The school burned in 1890, and the Creeks were without a school until 1892 when the Creek Government established a new school. Modern day boarding schools such as Sequoyah, Riverside and Eufaula Dormitory promotes Culture and Tradition they have different activities such as cultural events arts show, stomp dances and pow wows. The dorm takes the students on field trips to area events they are encouraged to participate in cultural activities on campus and off. Eufaula presently has more than 17 tribes that are represented at their facility.

SEE SCHOOL - B2

Native American History Series: Muscogee Confederacy by Patrick E. Moore

Since the beginning of memory the Muscogee Confederacy had occupied what is today the state of Georgia, Alabama and the pan-handle of Florida. Archaeologists have now determined beyond a reasonable doubt humans were widespread in the Americas around 40,000 to 50,000 years ago. The southeastern portion of North America had all the necessities for a comfortable life. The land was crossed by many rivers flowing toward the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, northern forests were full of game and the farmland in the south was ideal for cultivation of corn and vegetables. The native residents had access to the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico where the ocean provided abundant food resources. There are written reports by early explorers stating within a few feet of the shore one could harvest oysters larger than a human hand and fishing in the sea was excellent.



Moore

Travel north and south within the Confederacy was very easy, although east and west travel was another question, since the major rivers flowed west to east and tended to flood in the spring. The Ocmulgee and the Oconee rivers flowed from central Georgia to the Atlantic Ocean along with the Savannah, Ogeechee and Altamaha, the Flint and Chattahoochee flowed from northern Georgia to form the Apalachicola River, which emptied into the Gulf of Mexico. The Tombigbee river flowed from northeastern Alabama into Mobile Bay and formed a western boundary between the Muscogee Confederacy, the Chickasaw ancestral hunting grounds and the Choctaw Nation. The Muscogee used all rivers for travel in dugout canoes made of cypress logs and they had easy access to what

is now Florida. A so-called Black Belt of rich soil ran across present day Georgia through Alabama and into Mississippi. This soil is the most fertile cotton land in the world. Muscogee Confederacy towns and agriculture fields were all located on this marvelous farm land. Farming and agriculture played a major role in Muscogee life. Huge river bottom fields, some miles in length, produced corn and beans planted together the bean vines climbing corn stalks and at the same time replacing valuable soil nitrogen consumed by the corn. The Muscogee also had vast fields of squash, melons and gourds. This wonderful land also produced several varieties of berries and fruits along with nuts and roots, some of which were used for medicinal purposes. White-tailed deer were plentiful and made up the majority of the residents’ red meat diet along with turkey, rabbit and quail. Seasonal fish migrations to spawn up stream provided the Muscogee with some of the most prolific fishing sites on this continent. The Muscogee were master fisherman using elaborate wires and traps along with spears and harpoons and if the occasion warranted, the Muscogee fisherman would even dive in and physically subdue the giant catfish and sturgeon. For many thousands of years the Muscogee had modified their forests by selective burning to clear vast areas for their managed deer herds and farms. They also cleared large areas around their towns and one could easily travel between the various towns. The area occupied by the Confederacy before removal was a land of plenty with riches beyond imagination. Its intrinsic value was priceless because it was the home of the Muscogee Confederacy. The Shawnee referred to their close neighbors and sometimes relatives to the south as Muscogee and early European traders came up with the name Creek because most of the Muscogee towns were located on or near rivers and creeks.

SEE HISTORY - B7

Coming and Going in Indian Country by Joy Harjo

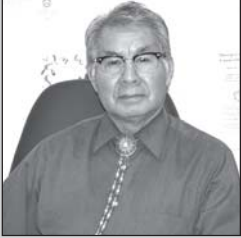
Hensci, estonko? When we greet, weather is often our next point of reference. The weather matters; it connects and shapes our various realities. We breathe it. We’re in it. Right now, here in Hawaii, it’s uncommonly humid, hot and still. The trade winds are our natural air conditioning. And where are they? They’re visiting somewhere else. Rumors are they are on their way back. They’d better get here soon. I’ve started checking on air conditioner prices! The weather in Oklahoma has always been legendary. The Cherokee Will Rogers, Jr., even commented about it: If you don’t like the weather in Oklahoma, wait a minute, it’ll change.” Every time I call home to Oklahoma I get a weather report. “Ice, snow, hail, humidity...” Often this is all on the same day. This summer it’s the heat wave.



Harjo

Even my friends up north in Alaska have been telling me how the heat has disrupted the cycles of life. Polar bears are drowning because of the extensive melting. There’s drought in the Amazon, too. And in Albuquerque last month the Rio Grande had disappeared to a trickle. It’s tricky going right now for all of us here on this beloved earth. We’d better start looking around and taking care: thank those plants, animals, winds, rains, the sun and moon—all that sustains us and have taken care of us all these years. And thank the Maker of all this. We take so much for granted. Many of us have forgotten who we really are in this place. My friend, Greg Sarris, the tribal chairman for the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria in northern California predicted that if this gets worse—and it will, if we don’t make some drastic changes in our behavior. We need to remember to be Indian again. We need to dust off our songs for the plants, winds, and animals, to all that sustains us. And will need to make new ones. We’d better start singing.

The weather is responsive and could be the culmination of our thoughts and actions as they move into the atmosphere: as individuals and communities, from our emotions, attitudes, car and industrial exhaust...and politicians’ lies. The big event last week in Fairbanks, Alaska was the World Eskimo-Indian Games. The games are based on skills needed for survival way up there in the north. In the Eskimo Stick Pull two people sit facing each other with their feet pressed together and their knees bent. Between them they grasp a stick. Each attempts to pull over their opponent. This strength is necessary for bringing a seal in from a hole in the ice. What games do we need down here to strengthen our survival? Maybe the Eskimo Stick Pull would help strengthen us for lifting grocery bags from the cart to the car, and then for carrying into the house? How about walking or running, to make a tank of gas last for more than a week? Or what about the frybread toss? See how far away you can toss the second or third piece you don’t need, so you can save a few pounds and maybe add a year or two to your life. The culminating event was the tug-of-war between the native women and the white men. The women have always won. I can imagine all kinds of competitions and teams we could feature at the Creek Nation Festival next year. Weren’t stickball games traditionally used for decision-making between tribal towns, other tribes? Each of us is involved in this game of life. And we’re here, together: full-blood, half-blood, citizen, not-a-citizen, married to a citizen, wish-I-were-married-to-a-citizen, tired-of-being-a-citizen—all of us. The playing ground is earth. We were born and will leave with only what we carry in our spirit. The challenge is to make a shining story out of our failures and successes, our despair and joy, to take good care of our gifts and each other.



Senior Services Update

by Jackson Barnett, Senior Services Manager

Please be informed that four forums are being planned in the next few months that should be of concern and interest to many of us. They are now in the planning stages and they are as follows:

- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- A Presentation by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Program
- A Forum on “Medicare Fraud”
- A Program on “Social Security”

Dates & Times will be forthcoming as they are finalized. Please be informed of these learning opportunties.

The Senior Services Program will be taking elders to the following:

American Indian Elders Conference
September 6, 7 and 8, 2006
Clarion Meridian Conference Center – Oklahoma City
Elders who have never gone on a senior program trip are eligible to attend.

Itinerary:

Wednesday, September 6

8 a.m. Depart Creek Nation
Take part in morning acitivities
Lunch

1 p.m. Take part in afternoon acitivities
Dinner – Spend the night

Thursday, September 7

9 a.m. Take part in morning activities
Lunch

1:30 p.m. Take part in afternoon activities
Dinner – Spend the night

Friday, September 8

9 a.m. Take part in final General Session

11 a.m. Depart Oklahoma City
Lunch in Shawnee

School

continued from B1

Eufaula’s new program promotes family preservation, they transport the students home every weekend to spend quality time with their families.

We have progressed more than the government would like to see and we stayed true to who we were to begin with Native Americans. We have survived broken treaties and Presidents that wanted to do away with ‘our kind’ with harsh comments said such as: “...*(They) were wolves and beasts who deserved nothing from the whites but ‘total ruin’.*” - **George Washington**

“...*(The US should) “pursue [Indians] to extermination, or drive them to new seats beyond our reach.*” - **Thomas Jefferson.**

“*The most ultimately righteous of all wars is a war with savages, though it is apt to be also the most terrible and inhuman. The rude, fierce settler who drives the savage from the land lays all civilized mankind under a debt to him. American and Indian, Boer and Zulu, Cossack and Tartar, New Zealander and Maori... it is of incalculable importance that America, Australia, and Siberia should pass out of the hands of their red, black, and yellow aboriginal owners, and become the heritage of the dominant world races.*” - **Theodore Roosevelt**, 1894 “...*(US troops need) to root out from their ‘dens’ and kill Indian women and their ‘whelps’.*” - **Andrew Jackson**, greatest Indian killer of all American Presidents. We should only hope the George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Andrew Jackson are turning over in their graves about how far we have come since then. Has the government’s perception of Native Americans really changed? It was the government that built the Mount Rushmore monument to symbolize what these presidents stood for. In 1923, Senator Norbeck and Congressman William Williamson easily secured federal legislation to allow a mountain carving in Hamey National Forest. A similar bill in the state Legislature was passed in 1925. By selecting four great presidential figures for the carving, the trio sought to create an eternal reminder of the birth, growth, and devel-

opment of a nation to democracy and the pursuit of individual liberty.

For some, Boarding School was stability, something that was missing from their home life or it was the same warm bed every night. For some it meant they didn’t have to decide who’s turn it was to get up and stoke the fire or add logs to it. Others it was no more cutting and hauling wood or water. For some it was the ‘perks’ like the indoor bathrooms, not having to look after their younger siblings anymore. They had their own identity and a bed to themselves, their own clothes and shoes. Some felt that it was the best thing for them. The dorms did teach you life skills; laundry, cleaning and basic household chores, responsibility and independence. Some others feel it was the worst nightmare anyone could endure. The exhibit had many displays that reflected what many remembered at the boarding school they attended. The metal beds with the ribbed cord bedspreads. Some things you put out of your mind it brought back a lot of things that I had not thought of in years, all the clothes you owned had your full name in permanent marker and not to forget those chili bowl haircuts.

Jones Academy located in Hartshorne, Oklahoma now operated by Choctaw Nation was one of those boarding schools a lot of Creeks attended. Creek Citizen Robyn (Sulphur) York went to Jones Academy in the mid 50’s to late 60’s and she graduated from Jones Academy/ Hartshorne in 1967. Coming from her grandparents home where only Creek was spoken. There were no programs to encourage or support the student’s traditional ways.

There were no programs to encourage or support the student’s traditional ways. The school administrators prohibited them to speak Creek to other Creeks so it was done secretly. She remembered other kids being punished for talking Creek by being ‘whipped’ across the hands, face, shoulders and back with a wooden ruler. She learned english and adapted quickly when she first started at Jones Academy it was very strict and stern and was still ran like a military school her first two years (1955-1957) she remembers having to wear school issued chambray shirts, denim pants and chunky black shoes. After that time frame, things started changing the better of all attending Jones Academy. By the time she reached junior high she enjoyed boarding school life, the school was part of several BIA pilot projects to so how or if Indian students could adapt, she was one of the fortunate ones that stood out, she was able to



Tribal Leaders, Health Professionals to gather for Diabetes Prevention Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY – Tribal leaders, health professionals, medical experts and American-Indian health specialists will gather for a conference on “Reducing Health Disparities in American Indians and Alaska Natives by Preventing Diabetes Throughout the Life Cycle” Aug. 21 through 24 at the Cox Business Services Convention Center. The conference will provide a forum for sharing and exchanging information about ongoing diabetes prevention efforts.

The conference includes more than 100 oral and poster presentations and a variety of notable speakers, including Charles Grim, assistant surgeon general and director of Indian Health Service; William Dietz, director of nutrition and physical activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and investigators from the Strong Heart Study, the longest-running National Institutes of Health study on heart disease in American Indians.

“There has never been an opportunity like this before where so many Indian health professionals will gather at one time to discuss diabetes,” said Linda Poolaw, tribal liaison for the EXPORT Center in the College of Public Health at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

The target audience for the event includes American Indians and Alaska Natives who are interested in diabetes prevention, tribal leaders, health program directors, health-care professionals, advocates, researchers and health policy-makers. However, everyone is welcome to register and attend the conference and associated events.

Conference topics consist of diabetes and obesity prevention, tribal activities to promote wellness, epidemiology of diabetes and heart disease, cultural factors in diabetes, prevention of

diabetic complications, cardiovascular disease among American Indians and Alaska Natives, lifestyle changes to promote healthful living, patient education, weight management and the role of the tribal government and health-care system administration.

In addition to the discussions, presentations, posters and exhibitions, the conference will provide opportunities for healthful activities and socialization. On scheduled days, morning activities will include a Sunrise Yoga/Aerobic Session and a Sunrise Fun Run and Walk, sponsored by the Edmond Running Club, along the Oklahoma City Bricktown Canal.

The Choctaw Dance Troupe will provide entertainment for the Tuesday lunch, and Comanche Signers and Singers and the Creek Nation Rope Jumpers will provide entertainment for the Wednesday lunch. The master of ceremonies at the Tuesday dinner will be Darryl Tonemah, an American-Indian singer, songwriter and diabetes behavioral consultant.

The event is co-sponsored by the Native American EXPORT Center in the College of Public Health at the OU Health Sciences Center and the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service. Other contributing sponsors include the Muskogee Creek Nation, Eli Lilly and Co., Novo Nordisk Inc. and Abbott Diabetes Care.

Gerald Coumoyer, a Sioux artist currently living Oklahoma, provided the artwork titled “The Four Stages of Life and Spirituality” for the conference.

For more information on the conference, registration and hotel reservations, visit the conference’s Web site at <http://export.ouhsc.edu/Conference.html> or call (405) 271-3090, Ext. 46841.

that one day his grandchildren would attend.

- **When one Indian boy or girl leaves from this school with an Education, the “Indian Problem” will be forever solved for him and his family** – Chancellor Lipincott of University of Kansas at Haskell Dedication – September 17, 1884

Since then the schools have changed so much and they no longer forbid our language spoken. I believe it is important for the camaraderie than anything else. It must have been only a certain group of kids that participated. Marine Veteran Bobby Frye attended Sequoyah in Tahlequah during the same time frame with Berryhill (from 1961-1964) stated he ‘must have got left out’. Frye felt that being able to go off alone and away from home helped him a lot, giving him independence. Now days the boarding school have really changed for the best. He said he’s not heard of any bad stories of today’s schools.

We as Mvskoke Etlwlv have endured the “Trail of Tears”, the European’s religion, boarding schools, relocation programs, federal grant reductions of Indian programs such as JOM and IHS services. We went and fought side by side in *their* wars against other countries before we were declared citizens of *their country*. But what really has changed for us? Our Gaming had gross sales of over one (1) Billion dollars, we take care of our own through our gaming revenues. We are the fourth largest tribe in America. As of July 5, 2006 we have 61,653 citizens. We have an operating budget of \$158 Million, We pay Federal taxes, we pay taxes to the State of Oklahoma and Social Security/Medicare. We have our own business enterprise. We contribute to the Oklahoma roadways, bridges and schools. We have paved, repaired and maintained 29.8 miles within our tribal boundaries through our Tribal Indian Reservation Roads Programs leaving 39.3 left to pave. Our JOM program serves eight counties. We buy fire trucks for communities. We have the largest Nutrition program in America serving 205,000 meals a year. We are 11 counties served by Great Nations that is represented by 26 council members. Today we continue to fight for our Tribal Sovereignty. Currently, they are still trying to *suppress* us not only us, all tribes with Tobacco and Gaming compacts.

But our most grand accomplishment is that we have persevered by keeping our traditions, culture and language alive in this day and age. Every fall we still honor the Council Oak tree that symbolizes where we began in Oklahoma. We still have sixteen active ceremonial grounds. We still play stickball, stompdance, speak, read and write Mvskoke. We are proud Mvskoke Etlwlv!

The “Remembering our Indian School Days: The Boarding School experience” is currently on exhibit and will run through January 1, 2008. The Heard Museum is located at 2301 N. Central Avenue. The hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. Admission is free to Native Americans (you must present citizenship card).

For more information, call the museum at (602) 252-8848 for recorded information or (602) 252-8344 for shop and bookstore.

Rising Retiree Health costs pose major concern for Church

A UMNS Report
By Neill Caldwell*

United Methodists have a strong tradition of caring for their retired pastors. The double-edged sword of escalating health care costs and growing numbers of retirees receiving benefits is making that an increasingly difficult proposition.

Some in the denomination worry that the church will follow the lead of many secular corporations and be forced to eliminate health care coverage for its retirees. Half the benefit plans in the country have been lost in the past decade, according to the American Benefits Council. Even financially strong companies have decided to stop contributing to retiree plans thanks to huge jumps in insurance premiums, medical services and drug costs.

The annual conferences, regional organizational units of the United Methodist Church, are responsible for providing health care coverage for their retired clergy members and other employees. The annual conferences have no control over health care cost increases, which show little sign of slowing down. In an effort to hold on to these benefits, conferences have had to increase the level of cost-sharing on the part of participants in these plans, or have had to decrease options of coverage and eligibility.

The larger problem may be future liability. The churchwide Board of Pension and Health Benefits estimates that the denomination's unfunded liability - what would be required to meet all health care promises for the future - stood at \$2.5 billion in 2002, the most recent measurement. Even when you reduce that figure by 10 percent, the average that retirees are paying into their respective programs is still \$2.2 billion.

"That's a projected benefit cost, way out in the future," said Barbara Boigegrain, top staff executive at the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. "But it's still highly unlikely that the denomination can pay that. What we have to address is the plan design and how to reduce that amount."

Boigegrain says this is the top financial issue facing the denomination.

"I'm hesitant to say the word 'crisis,' but the trend is alarming," she said. "This needs to be a call to action. We're at a crossroads. This issue has come to the forefront for many annual conferences. We're at the 'address it or lose it' point when it comes to health care benefits for our retirees."

The 2000 General Conference, the denomination's top legislative assembly, di-

rected the Board of Pension and Health Benefits to gather information from the annual conferences about retiree health care issues. The board found that plans vary widely from conference to conference, but that all conferences have access to health care benefits for retirees. Some conferences fund plans for staff and local church employees as well as clergy. Most have some level of cost sharing by participants in the plan and some conferences offer a prescription drug program, or vision or dental benefits. Some conferences have been forced to stop paying into retiree benefits plans entirely.

One common challenge conferences share is that increased retiree benefit costs are taking a bigger chunk of annual budgets, and in many cases ministry areas are suffering. The costs of benefits are also mentioned as limiting the dollars that can be spent on staff salaries, building maintenance and other basics.

"This has already had a major impact on conference budgets," said Boigegrain. "We've pulled some sample conference budgets to get a piece of the financial picture. This review indicated that over the next 10 years, retiree health care costs may be up 7 to 27 percent of an annual conference budget. So, while it may not take over completely, it will represent a higher and higher percentage."

Conferences are under financial pressure for a variety of reasons, Boigegrain said. "When conferences look for places they can reduce costs, I'm afraid a reduction in retiree health care benefits will be one of the first to be considered."

This is not the first time the denomination has faced this kind of situation, said Lisa Schilling, managing actuary at the pension and benefits agency. "Prior to 1982, we had the same kind of situation with big, unfunded pension liabilities," she said. "In the '70s, we became very aware of this growing imbalance, and put in a plan that dealt with it effectively. Those pastors who retired prior to 1982 are receiving benefits today because we were able to work out a program. So it's entirely possible that we can work it out again for healthcare."

Conference-level solutions

A strong shift has occurred to conference-based service rather than a denomination-wide program because of key differences in the way benefits are approached.

Many annual conferences have combined their health insurance buying power through HealthFlex, a managed-care insurance program administered by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The agency of-

fers HealthFlex to more than 29,000 participants and their family members in 28 of the 63 U.S. conferences. The benefits available depend upon the plans the program sponsors elects to offer.

The agency also offers the Comprehensive Protection Plan, which provides disability, death and other supplemental benefits to about 22,000 participating clergy and their families, and the Basic Protection Plan, which provides long-term disability and death benefits for clergy and lay employees of the United Methodist Church and church-related organizations.

The Florida Conference was among the first to participate in the health insurance plan that the denomination offered, said Randy Casey-Rutland, the conference's interim treasurer. However, last January, the conference left the HealthFlex plan for both retirees and active clergy, and contracted a new plan with United Health Care as the provider.

In 2001, the Florida Conference asked retirees to pay in \$10 per month per person. Before then, retirees had been receiving a Medicare supplement at no cost. At the 2002 annual session, the conference implemented a plan to establish a scale. If a pastor retired prior to 1985, the pastor pays \$10 a month. A clergyperson who retired between 1985 and 1989 pays 10 percent of the premium. If a pastor retired in 1990 or after, the payment is based on years of service. For each year of service, pastors receive a 2 percent credit toward the cost of health insurance, capped at 80 percent.

Only those conferences that have taken steps to set aside money to offset their growing liability can be considered to have a healthy retiree benefits program, Boigegrain said.

"The conferences seeing the spiraling costs are the ones that have not set aside reserve funds," said Don Rogers, executive director for Virginia United Methodist Pensions Inc.

Some conferences "self-fund" their insurance programs, meaning what is paid in premiums is returned in claims. But when claims outpace premiums, along with apportionments and investment income, the conferences must tap into reserve funds.

Plan of action

Boigegrain has been meeting with the denomination's bishops and suggesting a three-point strategy toward combating this growing problem.

She believes the church needs to look at what is being provided on a conference-by-conference basis, and that each conference must address its plan's design. "Is it

achieving what you want it to do?" Boigegrain asked.

Second, conferences must address the level of participant contribution in their plans, knowing there needs to be participation if the benefit is to be viable in the future.

And finally, each conference must project what the cost of retiree health care benefits will be, and then put in place a funding plan to cover that cost. "The burden is getting to be too great on our conferences," Boigegrain said. "It's unsustainable."

"I've talked about this every place I've gone and mentioned it in every speech I've given. We have offered to be supportive of annual conferences. We're creating a report to enlighten the denomination and working with the health care task force to develop additional strategies."

The agency offered legislation at both the 2000 and 2004 General Conferences to do retiree health evaluations, which have raised the board's level of understanding of costs and impact of providing health care coverage, Boigegrain said.

Boigegrain quoted recent figures that an average couple without employer-sponsored retiree healthcare could spend \$200,000 out-of-pocket on medical and pharmacy costs over the course of their retirement.

"What will really be sad is if we put the entire health care cost on the backs of our retirees," she said. "The only outcome I can see, if we continue to do as we're doing, is that we will follow the lead of many secular corporations and terminate health care benefits for our retirees. That would amount to a broken promise to our retirees."

The issue needs to be addressed in a variety of ways before it's too late to salvage a retiree health care benefits system, Boigegrain said.

"This is a significant issue around caring for our clergy, something that our denomination traditionally values. I sense a real disconnect with the way we're managing retiree health care," she said. "If we don't address it in the next few years, we'll have to get out of the business of providing retiree health benefits. And then it will be through negligence that we let this go away."

*Caldwell is a freelance writer based in High Point, N.C.

News media contact: Linda Green, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

Church Activities

3rd Annual Churches Meeting

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief Ellis will be hosting the 3rd Annual Churches Meeting on September 16 at 10 a.m. located in the mound building. There is a limit of two to three members per church to attend and a question and answer time will be allowed for any concerns.

For more information, call (918) 732-7604.

Gospel Singing

CHECOTAH — Deep Fork Hillabee Baptist church will be having their 1st Annual Gospel Singing on August 26 at 6 p.m. The emcee will be Curtis Kinney. Everyone welcome and bring your lawn chairs.

For more information, call (918) 473-5811.

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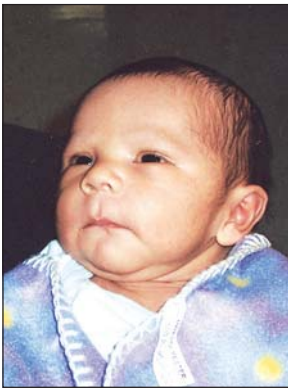
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BIRTHS

Takoda Bryce Canard

OKMULGEE — Takoda Bryce Canard was born June 9 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Daryl Canard and Ashley Berryhill.
Takoda weighed 7 lbs. and 10 oz. and he was 20 inches long.
Maternal grandparents are Joseph and Esther Berryhill.
Paternal grandparents are Dennis and Gwynn Canard.



Annie Haynes Chuckluck

COMMERCE — Annie Haynes Chuckluck was born on July 12 to Felicia and Wayne Chuckluck of Commerce.
Annie weighed 7 lbs and 4 ozs.
Her grandparents are Felix and Gloria Haynes of Okmulgee and the Rev. Bridge and Linda Chuckluck of Salina.
She is the great granddaughter of the late Jay and Annie Haynes and the late Bridge and Annie Chuckluck.
She has an older sister, Jayme and brother Wyatt.



BIRTHDAYS

Dayne Allen Billie

CLEWISTON, Florida — Dayne Allen Billie celebrated his 1st birthday on June 17th with a “Barney” theme.
Dayne is the son of Allen Billie and Mary Bear.
His paternal grandparents are Thomas and Jane Billie.
His maternal grandmother is Susanna Bear of Okemah.
Dayne is Creek, Cherokee and Seminole and is of the Wind Clan



Brock Hicks

TULSA — Brock Hicks celebrated his sixth birthday at Chuckie Cheese with family in attendance.
Brock is the son of Carrie and Jeremiah Hicks of Okemah.
Maternal grandparents are Patsy and the late Frank Jacobs.
Paternal grandparents are Jim and Jean Hicks of Henryetta.
Maternal great grandparents are the late Pauline Crawford and Jose Ramirez and Betty and the late Sam Jacobs of Henryetta.
Paternal great grandparents are Sissy Lewis of Henryetta and the late Jonus Artussee and Eliza and Houston Hicks of Henryetta.
Brock has one older brother, Bradley, age 10 and one older sister, Alisha age, 7.



Vernon Powell, Jr.

OKMULGEE — Vernon Lynn Powell, Jr. celebrated his 3rd birthday on August 2 with a “Cars” theme.
Vernon is the son of Valerie Taryole and Vernon Powell, Sr. of Okmulgee.
Maternal grandparents are Darlene and Kenneth Taryole of Okmulgee.
Paternal grandparents are Pam Johnson and Rick and Leslie Powell, all of Okmulgee.
Maternal great grandparents are the late Van and Sophia Taryole of Okemah and John and Nancy Frank of Cromwell.
Paternal great grandparents are the late Lax and Bessie Johnson of Tulsa and the late Vena Mae Randall and David Logan Powell of Preston.
He has four sisters, Michaela, Sidney, Ayleah and Cyann and two brothers, Derrick and Topley.



ACCOMPLISHMENT

Jennifer Frye

OKLAHOMA CITY — Creek citizen Jennifer Frye has recently graduated from Oklahoma City Community College with an Associate’s Degree in Applied Science in Graphic Communications with an emphasis in Print Media.
She is the daughter of Johnny Frye, Sr. and Marion Bunny Frye.
Her grandparents are the late James Bunny and the late Lucille Smith Bunny. And the late Harbie Frye, Sr. and the late Hepsey Walker Frye.
While attending OCCC, Frye attained numerous awards and honors including; 3.8 GPA, Vice President’s Honor Roll, The National Dean’s List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was a member of the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association.
Her future plans are to continue her education at the University of Oklahoma studying Visual Communications or Native American Studies. She is a member of the Fvswvlke Clan and her Tribal Town is Eufaula Canadian.



MUSCOGEE PEOPLE

Beaver named All-American Scholar

EUFAULA — The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Tusa Jane Beaver of Eufaula has been named an All-American Scholar.
Tusa has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout elementary and middle school years. She has been a member of the Middle School Honor Society for three years and was recognized by President Bush’s Education Awards Program for Outstanding Academic Excellence.
In addition, this year Tusa has been recognized for the Outstanding Achievement Award in 8th Grade American History, Outstanding Honor’s Pre-Algebra Award and the Certificate of Achievement by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and People to People World Leadership Forum.
Tusa is also the recipient of the Ray A. Kroc Youth Achievement Award and has been nominated to attend the National Young Leaders State Conference in Tulsa.
She is the daughter of Molline (Davis) Jackson and Jacob Jackson of Eufaula, and the late Richie Beaver. Maternal Grandparent is Maybeline Davis of Sasakwa. Paternal Granparents are Rev. Raymond and Hattie Jane Beaver of Eufaula. Tusa is a member of Okfuskee Baptist Church.
Tusa is a full-blood Creek/Seminole and will be a freshman at Eufaula High School. She is a member of the Bird Clan.



Brewster signes with UCO

EDMOND — Robyn Brewster has signed a letter of intent with the University of Central Oklahoma to play soccer for the Broncos.
Robyn was all-district, all conference and an all-state performer at Muskogee High School. She was Muskogee High School soccer team’s most valuable player the last two years at her forward position.
Robyn is the daughter of Patricia Wilson Brewster. She is the granddaughter of Barbara Chaney Wilson and great-granddaughter of the late Dora S. Colbert Chaney.
She is of the Bear clan.

Brewster accepted to Nursing school

TULSA — Sarah Brewster was accepted into the University of Tulsa School of Nursing.
This spring, she traveled with her class to England and visited several English hospitals. After completing her nursing degree, she plans to apply for nurse anesthetist school.
Sarah is the daughter of Patricia Wilson Brewster. She is the granddaughter of Barbara Chaney Wilson and great-granddaughter of the late Dora S. Colbert Chaney.
She is of the Bear clan.

Christy signes with Eastern State College

EUFAULA — Creek citizen Billy Christy, a recent Eufaula High School graduate, has chosen to run track at Eastern State College in Wilburton for coach Glen Stone.
Christy will compete in the 400 and 800 meter events, where he was very strong in his final high school season qualifying for the state meet as well as taking home first place in the 400 meter event at the Regional meet. He will join a track program that has enjoyed an abundance of past success dominating at many state and national competitions while winning the school ten national championships.
Christy was also a standout for the Eufaula football squad in the defensive secondary and as a wide receiver. He was chosen as an all-star for the 22nd Annual Lake Eufaula Classic which features the areas best players on the East and West squads.



Boy donates hair to “Locks of Love”

TULSA — Creek citizen Sundala Bible-Pinion, nine years old, recently cut 36 inches of his hair on July 27 and donated it to the “Locks of Love” Program.
His last “real” hair cut was in October 2001 on his fourth birthday once his hair was a few inches past his shoulders. One day while watching television, Sundala had seen someone that had donated their hair to the “Locks of Love Program. “Locks of Love” is a non-profit organization that provides donated hair to those afflicted with illness’ associated withlong term hair loss.
At a young age, Sundala asked his mother what cancer was, she explained the deadly disease and that it had run in their family. That is when he said, that once his hair grew to his knees he wanted to donate it to “Locks of Love.”
Before Sundala was born his family lost one of his cousin’s, Kelli Danielle a 20-month old, to a rare form of childhood cancer. In 1997, Kelli’s older sister Stacy York of Albuquerque, New Mexico underwent surgery to remove a tumor on her brain. In July 2006, Stacy underwent a second surgery to remove another tumor and is now taking radiation and chemotherapy treatments at Barrow’s Neurosurgical Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. Stacy will be the recipient of what Sundala calls his “Lots of Love Locks.” If by chance Stacy does not need Sundala’s hair she will donate it on his behalf to someone else who may need it at the Barrow’s Institute before she completes her treatments.
Sundala had his hair cropped closely and had chunky red streaks applied. He said he “felt like a new boy” and that his “head felt lighter.” Sundala’s story and haircut were highlighted on KOTV Channel 6 nightly news. Before leaving, Sundala told his stylist John at Regis in the Promenade Mall “see you in five years.”



Before



After

*****Want to hear more about Creek citizens’ accomplishments and milestones? Tune in to the “Muscogee Nation Radio Program” heard every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. on Okmulgee’s own “True Country” KOKL AM 1240*****

Honor Guard remembered and honored

“Then we noticed that a lot of our Native American veterans were passing on and being buried without the benefit of proper military honors and ceremony.”

By Vernon Courtwright
Special submissions

OKMULGEE — They come together for one purpose, from all parts of the Mvskoke Nation, North, South, East and West, veteran's of every branch of the Service who have served from World War II to Korea to Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm. One of the founder's, the late Jim Wesley, stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-day. They come, to Honor their tribal brothers-in arms who have passed on to their final reward. Answering the call of duty once again, many years after their own tour of duties has ended, to pay their final respects in a military manner.

It all starts with a phone call. Usually, the Commander will get the call and in turn calls the other guard members. Wherever they are, whatever they're doing, each one, individually, begins to make plans to be there at the specified time and place. On that day, they all arrive at almost the same time, dressed in either Khaki or camouflage B.D.U.'s, boots shined, black berets with eagle feathers hanging, they snap smartly to attention as the hearse arrives at the gravesite. The rifle squad's weapons, at “Present Arms,” as it slowly pulls to a stop. At times the temperature has been below freezing with sleet, or snow falling, others, it could be and has been, well into triple digits with the sun at its hottest.

They've developed a camaraderie over the years, after sharing so many experiences, and as before, the older more experienced guards make sure everyone knows their job when the time comes to provide those final honors. The wail of a widow or young child who's lost one of the most important parts of their lives, still makes a chill run up an honor guard's spine, as they stand at attention, eyes straight ahead. You can't be exposed to that much suffering and grief without being affected by it somehow. Creek hymns speak of bygone days and the promise of an eternal life now that this earthly one is ended. Families who live our Traditional culture are provided these same rights.

The flag detail posts at the head and foot of the casket, as the rifle squad prepares to fire, upon command their rifles fire once, the report breaking the quiet solitude of the cemetery, then the mechanical sound of bolts retracting, shells ejecting and new ones chambered, they fire again and some-

times babies begin to cry. The third and final volley has echoed across remote, family cemeteries and in all major cities of the Mvskoke Nation.

The flag is picked up and

ceremony,” said Thomas Yahola, Commander.

“We acquired uniforms and headgear and spent money out of our own pockets to get to places so we could

Allen Wind, who is the group's newest member, gives his reasons for joining. “It was out of a deep respect for our elders and warriors,” said Wind, “I recognized the group as ‘holding those same values’.”

On November 10, 1999, then Principal Chief, R. Perry Beaver signed into law an ordinance (NCA 99-161) establishing, maintaining and designating the Este Cate Veteran's as the Official Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard. Allowing them to participate in events such as Veteran's Day events, for the first time with official sanction. Chief Beaver said at the time, “I was real pleased that the group got together. It honors our veteran's. All tribes think highly of their veteran's and we do too.”

In the six years since its inception, the Honor Guard has far exceeded its original intent and been asked to attend events in Washington D.C. (opening of the National Museum of the American Indian), Macon, Georgia (Mounds Cultural Days) and at professional basketball

games in Oklahoma City. Tribes in the South in Alabama have asked them to bring in the colors at Powwows and other events. All of which bring Honor to our Nation.

stretched motionless over the casket, as a bugler off in the distance, begins to play the final, mournful tribute of “Taps.” It is then folded with precision and ceremonially passed to their commander. Holding the flag close to his chest, he turns to the mother, father, son, daughter or wife who has lost their loved one and speaks of honor and gratitude for a job well done, on behalf of the United States of America and the Mvskoke Nation. One final salute and their duty is done. They've honored one of their own, in the way they would like to be honored. The way they feel all veteran's should be honored.

Native tribes have always honored and respected their warriors historically and in present times, their veteran's. Returning warriors would often form societies to share their experiences and honor those who did not return. A practice which continues today.

Established in approximately 1997 as the “Este Cate Veteran's,” this group of Creek veteran's primary objective was to provide Indian veteran's with outreach services in remote areas where they could not be easily accessed.

“Then we noticed that a lot of our Native American veteran's were passing on and being buried without the benefit of proper military honors and

provide these military honors and like all good ideas, it grew when others saw what we were doing and became interested.”

The Seminole Nation Honor Guard (Vietnam-Era Veteran's Inter-Tribal Association) which had already been in existence, provided assistance by allowing the Este Cate Veteran's to borrow their weapons for funerals and familiarizing them with the proper military commands and functions. As time went on the Mvskoke Honor Guard began to be recognized for their efforts and requests began to come in for speakers, at school Veteran's Day programs. They began to march in local parades and were asked to post the colors at functions and events. All of which they gladly did because they realized it brought attention to veteran's in a positive way and made people remember and honor their sacrifices.

Group member Rufus Scott of Wetumka says he does it out of respect for his fellow veteran's and their families. “Not only do the veteran's go through a lot of sacrificing, but the families, mothers, father, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles - have to let that loved one go (not knowing if they'll ever returned).”

“So I respect the families as much as I do the veteran's.”



Recently, on May 20, 2006, the National Council Speaker and Council awarded a plaque and certificate to the Honor Guard “In appreciation for service as Goodwill Ambassadors of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”

The awards and accolades were viewed by the Honor Guard as validation and encouragement for their efforts, but they haven't let them go to their heads.

They still believe their main purpose is to provide those final military Honors with respect and integrity on behalf of the Mvskoke Nation and themselves.

All Honorably Discharged Creek veteran's are eligible for membership and or final military honors and the group invites any interested veteran's to attend their monthly meetings at 10:30 a.m., the second Saturday of each month at the BIA conference room in the Tribal complex in Okmulgee.



Session

continued from A3

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-073**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY IN OKMULGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA FOR USE BY THE COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION **Sponsor: Anthony Notaro; Co-Sponsor: Sam Alexander (\$175,000.00)**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-074**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE VETERANS' AFFAIRS SERVICES OFFICE TO DISBURSE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MUSCOGEE VETERANS, SURVIVING SPOUSES AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND THEIR SPOUSES **Sponsor: Anthony Notaro (\$100,000.00)**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-075**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 36, "TAXATION AND REVENUE, "CHAPTER 3, "MOTOR VEHICLE TAX AND LICENSE CODE," TO ALLOW FOR REDUCED REGISTRATION FEES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND FOR CITIZENS WHO ARE DISABLED **Sponsor: Richard Berryhill; Co-Sponsor: Shirlene Ade**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-076**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT THREE (3) POLITICAL CANDIDATES WHO WILL ADVOCATE FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES **Sponsor: Roger Barnett (\$15,000.00)**

•**WILL RETURN TO COMMITTEE (18-0-0) NCA 06-077**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR THE INVESTMENT WITH THE SUMMIT CALL CENTER **Sponsor: Pete Beaver; Co-Sponsor: Eddie LaGrone (\$1,500,000.00)**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-079**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO COVER TRAVEL OF EXPENSES FOR HICKORY GROUND CEREMONIAL GROUND MEMBERS TO GO TO WETUMPKA, ALABAMA **Sponsor: Roger Barnett (\$2,560.00)**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-080**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO FUND NECESSARY REPAIRS TO ARBEKA CEREMONIAL GROUND **Sponsor: Roger Barnett (\$15,000.00)**

REPRESENTATIVE SHIRLENE ADE WAS EXCUSED. THEREFORE EIGHTEEN WERE PRESENT AND EIGHT ABSENT.

•**APPROVED AS AMENDED (17-0-0) NCA 06-081**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO MUSCOGEE ROUGHER SUMMER PRIDE TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION AND PHYSICAL FITNESS/SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN **Sponsor: Pete Beaver; Co-Sponsor: Eddie LaGrone (\$50,000.00)**

RECONSIDERED AND AMENDED (17-0-0) NCA 06-079, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO COVER TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR HICKORY GROUND CEREMONIAL GROUND MEMBERS TO GO TO WETUMPKA, ALABAMA **Sponsor: Roger Barnett (\$2,560.00)**

ADOPTED (17-0-0) NCA 06-085, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION GSA/FACILITIES DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) GASOLINE-POWERED WOOD CHIPPERS AND FOR TRASH PICKUP **Sponsor: Anthony Notaro (\$25,000.00)**

ADOPTED (17-0-0) NCA 06-087, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZENS OF THE OKLAHOMA INDIAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ASSEMBLY IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA **Sponsor: Travis Scott; Co-Sponsor(s): L. Wind; R. Barnett (\$3,082.46)**

JULY 6, EMERGENCY SESSION
REPRESENTATIVES EXCUSED FOR THE EVENT ARE: SHIRLENE ADE, TUKVPTCE; LARRY BIBLE, TULSA; TOM PICKERING, MCINTOSH;

Absent were: TOM PICKERING, MCINTOSH; EDDIE LAGRONE, MUSCOGEE; ROBERT JONES, OKMULGEE; SHIRLENE ADE, TUKVPTCE; Lorry BIBLE, Tulsa;

Speaker George Tiger, Creek District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.
IN ORDER OF BUSINESS:

REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE LAGRONE ARRIVED AT 6:36 P.M.

•**TABLED (21-0-0) TR 06-096**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REPEALING TR 05-072 (A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAND IN OKMULGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA) AND AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAND IN OKMULGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA FOR THE ADJUSTED AMOUNT ON THE PURCHASE **Sponsor: George Tiger**

JULY 24, EMERGENCY SESSION
REPRESENTATIVES EXCUSED FOR THE EVENT ARE: LARRY BIBLE, TULSA;

Absent were: LARRY BIBLE, TULSA; CHERRAH QUIETT, TULSA; PAUL WILLIIS, TULSA;

Speaker George Tiger, Creek District, con-

ducted the meeting and did not vote.

IN ORDER OF BUSINESS:
•**FAILED ON THE FLOOR, DUE TO A TIE VOTE** SPEAKER GEORGE TIGER VOTES NO. THEREFORE THE FOLLOWING RESULTS BEING RECORDED: (11-12-0) TR 06-108, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH FLINTCO FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TULSA CASINO **Sponsor: Roger Barnett**
VOTING NO WERE: GEORGE TIGER, CREEK DISTRICT; ROGER BARNETT, CREEK; THOMAS MCINTOSH, MCINTOSH DISTRICT; TRAVIS SCOTT, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; LENA WIND, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; BILL FIFE, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; JEFF FIFE, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; BO JOHNSON, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; SYLVANNA CALDWELL, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT; SHIRLENE ADE, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT; RON CLEGHORN, TULSA DISTRICT; AND SAM ALEXANDER, TULSA DISTRICT.

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BETTY JEAN BLAND
RANCHOPALOS VERDES, California
— Funeral services for Betty Jean Bland were held July 31 at the Green Hills Chapel.

Betty was born April 14, 1918 in Wetumka to Daniel and Addie Barnett of Wetumka.

She was a member of the Calvary Pentecostal Church of God in San Pedro, California.

Survivors include: brother, George Barnett of Sherman, Texas; children, Dorothy, James, Connie, Dennis, Lewis, Leona, and Larry; 22 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren, all of California.

ROBERT LEE BUTCHER, JR.

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Robert Lee Butcher, 38, Jr. were held June 24 at Prairie Springs Church with Reverends Chad Smith, Richard Fixico, and Kenneth Fixico officiating.

Robert was born in Claremore on November 2, 1968 to Robert and Charlotte Sue Simmer-Butcher.

He had lived in the Oklahoma City area for most of his life before moving back to the Okmulgee area. He was employed at Denny's as a waiter at the time of his death.

He is survived by his sister Clara Meely and two aunts Leona Sanders of Cromwell and Naomi Mitchell of Hanna.

Interment was at the Butcher Family Cemetery.

ADDIE GEORGE

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Addie George were held July 27 at Smith Funeral Chapel with Melvin George officiating.

Addie was born Nov. 30, 1911, in Mounds but spent most of her life in Sapulpa.

She was a member of the Native American Church of Oklahoma as well as a member of the Pickett Chapel Indian Methodist Church and the Polecat Ceremonial Grounds.

Addie was the oldest living member of the Yuchi Tribe. She had taught Native American Culture and Language at Columbus, Georgia.

Preceding her in death: were her parents; husband, Rufus George; daughters, Delores Marshall and Ramona Sweeney and son, Donald George.

Survivors include: her children, Ruben George, of Nampa, Idaho, Melvin George, of Muskogee, Alma Gibson, Christine Wright,

Willie George, John George, Ronald George, Gary George and Valerie Harjo, all of Sapulpa; sister, Ann Holder of Sapulpa; 28 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; 20 great-great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews and cousins.

Honorary pallbearers were: Clifton Peshlakai; Eugene Blackbear Jr.; Joe Dale Nevaquaue; Jordache Martinez; Roderick Sweezy and Malcom Whitebird Jr.

Pall Bearer was Joe Dale Nevaquaue. Interment was at South Heights Cemetery.

TEDDY ALLEN HARJO

WELTY — Funeral services for Teddy Allen Harjo were held July 11 at the Church of God with Reverend Don Rich officiating.

Teddy lived in Okemah with his dad Dwight Lunsford until moving to Canute with his mother Vickie Davis and step-dad Melton Davis.

He graduated from Canute High School and after graduation he went on to learn the welding trade.

His hobbies were to fish, hunt, and playing pool with his own pool team that he organized.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, B.J. and Bertha Carter and Thomas Harjo and his Great-grandmother Jessi Lunsford.

He is survived by: his son, Tyce Dwight Harjo of Missouri; his mother; his dad; Tommy Lee Harjo of Holdenville; Melton Davis of Canute; grandmother, Betty Lindsay of Okemah; three brothers: Tommy 'Toby' Harjo of Canute; Michael Lunsford of Shawnee; Heath Henry; wife, Kim of Welty; eight sisters, Tonika Davis of Canute, Tisha Bishop of Okemah, Nicole Bluford of Fresno, California, Beth Roach and Katelyn Long, both of Canute, Tisha and Tonya Harjo, both of Holdenville; nine nieces and eight nephews.

Pallbearers were: Toby Harjo; Terry Wilcox; Joe and Bub Barela; Junior Hampton and Clark Dixon.

Interment was at the Welty Cemetery.

BELVIN J. "PUDGIE" HILL

EUFULA — Funeral services for Belvin J. "Pudgie" Hill were held July 29 at the Tuskegee Baptist Church with Minister Paul Maxey officiating. Music was provided by the Creek Indian Singing Group.

Belvin was born March 10, 1952 to Jess and Medella in Talihina, Oklahoma.

never given anyone such power. He was, however, given the title of "Great Beloved Man" by the Confederacy's Council and became the Confederacy's number one political adviser and chief diplomat.

During the Revolutionary War, Alexander McGillivray was pro-British having been an Assistant British Commissary Official. He was, however, unable to persuade the Confederacy to make a total commitment to the British. He was successful in organizing and encouraging guerrilla warfare and did cause considerable damage to the colonists in the areas adjacent to the Confederacy.

By the end of the Revolutionary War, he was the most important leader within the Confederacy. His intellect and personality were reported to have been overwhelming and his negotiation skills without equal. His language and persuading skills made him a most formidable leader when advising the Confederacy or treating with other Nations.

George Washington invited Alexander McGillivray and other Confederacy Mekkos to meet with him in New York City in 1790, after the Revolutionary War, to negotiate a new treaty. Washington was interested in winning over to the new United States those Indian Nations who had in whole or in part sided with the British. The St. Tammany Society was asked to host these Muskogee Confederacy Mekkos in hopes of gaining their support for peace treaties.

McGillivray recognized that a United States was a far greater threat to the Confederacy than thirteen individual colonies. He was a student of history and was convinced the Confederacy must organize into a strong central government if the Confederacy were to survive and that it must develop laws and policy that would apply to all members of the Confederacy. These goals were not easy to accomplish because of the traditions of tribal town autonomy within the Confederacy. McGillivray attempted to form an alliance with Spain in order to provide the necessary war material needed by Confederacy warriors to defend their territory from the state of Georgia. He knew if they could hold Georgia at bay until the internal solidification of the Confederacy could be accomplished, then a united and powerful Confederacy would be able to deal with this new United States government and particularly the state of Georgia unaided.

McGillivray's political problem was time. He had excellent support among the Upper Tribal

Belvin was raised and attended school in Eufaula where he graduated in 1970. Following high school in 1980 he received his bachelor of science degree from Northeastern State University in elementary education and minors in health and physical education and sociology.

During the years through 1970 thru 2000, Mr. Hill's Christian service and pastoral experience includes Muskogee Seminole Wichita Indian Baptist Association as youth director, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as a seminary student, Cedar Baptist Church in Red Oak, Oklahoma as interim pastor, pastor of Ada First Baptist church, Ada, Oklahoma, student at Mid-Western Baptist Theological Seminary, pastor of the Kansas City Indian Baptist Mission, associate pastor of Faith Hill Baptist church in Dustin, Oklahoma, pastor of Otoe Baptist church in Red Rock, Oklahoma, pastor of Colony Christian Fellowship in Reno, Nevada and minister staff and adult Sunday school teacher of Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Reno, Nevada.

He worked at the Muskogee (Creek) Nation as a field specialist for the Johnson O'Malley Department.

He married Patricia Karen (Black) on December 17, 1987 in Lawrence, Kansas.

He was preceded in death by: his father; brother, Bunny Hill and a sister Peggy Hill.

Survivors include: his wife, Karen Hill; son, Joseph J. Hill; a daughter, Elkeena Wind; his mother, Medella Hill of Eufaula, six grandsons, two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

Pallbearers were: Alex Black; Lincoln Harjo; James and Jason Black; Chris Pratt; Anthony Wind; Freelan Lindsey and Kenneth Colbert.

Honorary pallbearers included: Ted Black Jr.; Joseph, Truman; Albert Black; Noah Palmer, and Joe Mekko Hill.

Interment was at the Charles Family Cemetery.

ADRIAN KODY LANG

MUSKOGEE — Funeral services for Adrian Kody Lang were held July 8 at Timothy Baptist Church with Pastor Kelley Payne, Pastor Denise Gauden, and Reverend Everett Lang officiating the ceremony.

Adrian was born February 8, 1984 to Elma Claiborne and Latzetta Lang.

Kody was a member of the Neighbor

Hood House of Prayer and sung with the Youth Choir.

He began with his education at the Boynton-Moton Public Schools, and along with this education, came the training and education he received from his big brother, cousins and neighbors on the practice court in basketball.

His hobbies were riding in the area rodeos as a member of the B-town Riders, breaking horses with his father, music, and playing basketball.

Survivors include: his loving parents, Elma "Bodie" and Larzetta Lang, of the home; three sisters, Kristie Goudeau of Atlanta, Georgia, Veronda Lang and Krystal [Prince] Forshee', all of Boynton; five brothers, Tyrell, Greg, Jerry, Josh and David, all of Boynton; his grandparents, Archie and Lucille Lang of Boynton, Elsworth and Carrie Mae Lewis of Grayson; six nephews; three nieces; along with a caravan of aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

LEOWISE

HANNA — Funeral services for Leo Wise were held July 21 at Hillabee Indian Baptist Church with Reverends Houston Tiger and Newman Crowels officiating.

He was born March 4, 1950 in Wichita, Kansas to Walter and Pauline (Maggie) Wise.

After a short term in high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and after a tour of duty was honorably discharged.

He is survived by: his wife, Sallie Scott; Walter Wise Jr.; Kenny Wise; Vincent Wise, all of Konowa, Okla.; John McCourtland of Shawnee; Mazine Clifford of South Dakota; Connit Thlocco of Missouri, Sheila Hooper of Maud, Oklahoma.; Pauline Smith of Tulsa; Linda Wise of Konowa, and Mary Jo Barnett of Holdenville.

Pallbearers include: Anthony Scott; Wilson Scott Jr.; Chris Mitchell; Earl Harrison; T.J. Culley and Wayne Wauqua.

Interment was at Hillabee Cemetery.

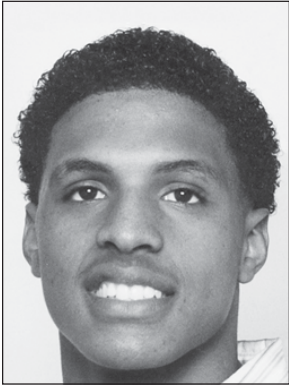
invasion of settlers. He wanted to strengthen the Confederacy to preserve its independence and sovereignty. His premature death left a void in the Confederacy and there was no one of his education, stature and imagination to continue with his vision. We can only speculate as what the Muskogee (Creek) Confederacy would be like in the year 2003 had Alexander McGillivray lived until his 75th year as had the Iroquois Confederacy Sachem Hendrick..

Now Andrew Jackson came upon the scene. Jackson arrived in the Cumberland Valley in 1788. He was a 21-year-old lawyer, who loved to gamble, bet on race horses and speculate in land. He quickly became acquainted with Rachel Robards, the daughter of a very prominent and wealthy man. Jackson married her and later found out she was not properly divorced from her first husband, a fact that caused some concern and gossip at the time but did not seem to bother Jackson at all. The influence of his new in-laws placed him on the commission that drafted the Tennessee Constitution and when Tennessee was admitted to the Union he became the first congressman in 1796. The next year he was sent to Washington as a United States Senator. He served one year and resigned claiming financial hardship. He was then appointed a Superior Court Judge and served in that capacity until 1804. While serving as a Judge, he was elected a General in the Tennessee Militia, a position he held through the War of 1812.

He fought the Upper Creeks of the Muskogee Confederacy in Alabama during 1814 and his involvement in that campaign raised the following question - Why was a Tennessee Militia General leading a state militia in a campaign on the sovereign territory of the Muskogee Confederacy? The answer seems to lie in personal and political actions taken by Jackson throughout the rest of his life.

During this same time period several federal government officials included land grants to themselves under hidden under the guise of Indian Treaty clauses. These questionable transactions did not escape Andrew Jackson and on August 9, 1814 he was on the receiving end of an illegal land grant from the Creek Nation of three square miles of land anywhere of his choosing within the Creek Nation.

TO BE CONTINUED
SEPTEMBER 06 MNN



Lang

History

continued from B1

These same traders also divided the Muskogee Confederacy into geographical groups labeled Upper Creeks and Lower Creeks, depending on the north to south location of each tribal town within the Confederacy. Lower Creeks, by virtue of their tribal town's geography were in a closer proximity to European traders in the south and east, and thus were exposed to human advances not experienced by Upper Creeks, who were geographically isolated in the northern and western areas of the Muskogee Confederacy.

Upper and Lower Creek designation was then applied, by European intermeddlers in the late 1700's and early 1800's to classify the more progressive Lower Creek, from the more traditional, Upper Creek. This same classification was to be a catalyst, used by outsiders, who helped spawn a Creek Civil War in the southeast after 1800.

Upper Creeks resisted the sale or cession of any land while the Lower Creeks, accustomed to dealing with foreigners, realized their time in the east was rapidly coming to an end. The Upper and Lower Creek classification of Muskogee Towns was to again rear its ugly head in Indian Territory during the War between the States.

Political division between the Upper and Lower Creeks began to develop in the late 1700's, after meddling by foreign powers, politicians, states now part of the United States and the federal government.

Enter Alexander McGillivray, a man of great mental and leadership ability. McGillivray was a member of the Wind Clan, a native-born son of Little Tallassee, a Muskogee (Creek) Upper Town. He was born in 1759, the son of a Scottish trader and a Muskogee/French mother. He inherited political status from his mother, a member of the Wind Clan, and considerable economic influence from his wealthy trader father. McGillivray was well educated in Charleston as a young man. He was a man of letters, well versed in French, English, Spanish and the Muskogee languages, he quickly rose to power because of his membership in the Wind Clan and father's trade connections, and was gifted with a remarkable ability to manipulate all three foreign powers against each other. By his twenty-fourth birthday he was so prominent and powerful within the Muskogee Confederacy that outsiders referred to him as the "Dictator" even though the Confederacy had

HOT CORNER

BY
JASON SALSMAN

It's August here at the Muscogee Nation News and just to get the redneck cliché out of the way, "its hotter than sitting bare-back on a depot stove!" But hey, we're gonna get though this, October is just around the corner and before too long we'll all be complaining about how cold it is.

Speaking of October just around the corner, football season is rapidly approaching and tragedy has struck the Sooner Nation once again. Last year about this time, I was penning my first Hot Corner for this publication. I was fuming, absolutely ranting and raving at the Oklahoma football team for a dropped season opener to hapless Texas Christian, in Norman no less! The only positive I took away from that game was the never give up, fiery, almost cocky bravado of a Texas blue-chip gunslinger named Rhett Bomar who took the reins at quarterback and tried to salvage the game for OU. But, at the same time I was realizing that the same cockiness, swagger and supposed invincibility he showed on the football field also must carry over into his personal life. Turns out my suspicions were correct. Rhett Bomar, just four weeks from the opening game of what was supposed to be a championship season for OU, has been dismissed from the team for money received for work not done at a Norman car dealership. I don't know if surprised is an emotion that we should feel as sports fans right now. After all, is it possible for kids these days to keep a level head with every recruiting database and rabid fan there is anointing them as the next Elvis? I mean I must have been lying to myself thinking he had the mental makeup to come to come to OU and steer straight. I noticed problems from the get-go and chose to ignore the signs, blinded by my excitement with the Sooners landing the can't miss prospect of the 2003 recruiting class. But the signs were there, whether I chose to pay attention to them or not. There was his father, Jerry Bomar, who had always coached his son and had been his biggest cheerleader. He openly lobbied for Rhett in newspapers, magazines and publications to the point of obnoxiousness. I have no problem with a father being proud of his son, but when it reaches the extent that it did in this case, then it can be crippling to the young man. All that teaches him is that he is above the standard, that normal rules don't apply and I cringed each time the elder Bomar made public statements about his son's status or intentions. That belief that he was the superstar quarterback unable to be held to regular standards, showed itself several times over the last few months, eerily foreshadowing darker news to come.

And the dealership is to blame. Before Rhett Bomar was even thought of, questionable practices were going on at Big Red Sports and Imports in Norman. During my time at OU as a student, there were "a good number" of my friends on the football team, even NCAA record-holders, that had benefitted from the "gracious" folks at the dealership. Not two months ago, Big Red nearly put OU in jeopardy, allowing mega-star Adrian Peterson to cruise around in a Lexus that he had not paid for, drawing national attention to the program's credibility. Shame on the folks at Big Red. If you are such a big supporter of the OU football tradition, quit doing everything within your power to kill it!

But in all this unnecessary negative attention, there is an undeniable positive. Bob Stoops has once again shown Sooner football fans why they have the greatest college football coach in the game today. His tough love example, while possibly extremely devastating to this particular season's plans, will ensure that Oklahoma football never compromises the integrity of many for the carelessness of few. Kudos to Coach Stoops, his actions should remind those that are "Sooner born and Sooner bred" why they are that way.

Late bloomer ready to play college basketball

by Jason Salsman
MNN Sports Reporter

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Thomas Sands never played basketball until he was in the tenth grade. Until then, there was never a reason to think that the sport would fit him. But that was before there was a bit of a growth spurt.

"I wasn't even hardly six foot then," says Sands. "I didn't really do much, wasn't very active. And then one summer I grew like 3 inches." Now, you cannot help but notice the youngster from Haskell when he walks into a room. He now measures at 6'8" and the kid that never played organized basketball until he was 15, is now heading to Haskell Indian Nations University on a full basketball scholarship.

Count HINU basketball coach Jamie Morrison as one who is glad Thomas decided to take up the game. "Thomas is a big signing for us, he is expected to come in and compete for a starting position right away," said Morrison. "He is a big presence in the middle that we haven't had in some time here at Haskell."

Sands showcased some of that "big presence" that coach Morrison was

talking about this past season when he used his 240 pound frame to create space in the middle where he averaged 13.6 points per game. He also pulled down 14.8 rebounds per game which led the state of Oklahoma and was an intimidating force in the paint swatting away 4.6 shots a game. "I take a lot of pride in working hard for rebounds because they are such an important part of the game," explains Sands. "They can either mean a second chance for your team or a change of possession, so you got to bring them down when you get a chance."

Still, it is hard to imagine that a young man can go from never playing organized basketball to being a college signee in just three years. But that's just a testament to the hard work that Thomas has put in, whether it be during the summer time or during the season he was always striving to get better. "I'm just glad all the dedication has payed off," he says. "It's real exciting, you know, getting to play college ball. It's something that I never really thought about actually happening, but I'm glad it did."



Thomas Sands, right, with Haskell Indian Nations basketball coach Jamie Morrison
Photo courtesy of haskell.edu

Creek grappler heading to Central Oklahoma

Leaving the "Last Frontier" to wrestle on the plains

by Jason Salsman
MNN Sports Reporter

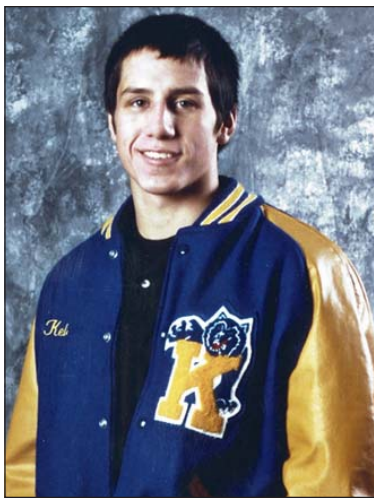
EDMOND — When you look at a map, the city of Edmond, Oklahoma is a long way from the state of Alaska. And when you walk around in the oven-like Oklahoma summertime, the distance could not seem any further.

But one Creek athlete that makes his home in the village of Kotzebue, Alaska is making the journey and completing a dream for him and his family. Kelson Phillips, 18, has signed on to wrestle for coach David James and perennial Division II power Central Oklahoma. The Broncos are adding Phillips to an already stellar recruiting class for a program that has won 13 national titles, a testament to the talent of the young star.

Success is nothing new for Phillips, he has enjoyed plenty of it in high school. His list of accomplishments is longer than Fat Albert's grocery list; 3-Time State quali-

fier, State runner-up (171 lbs), State Champion Greco Roman (171 lbs) and Captain of Team Alaska National Freestyle and Greco wrestling team. In addition, he also shined on the basketball court as well where he was a three time all-conference selection, honorable mention all-state, while averaging 20 points and 11 rebounds a game his senior year. Phillips is no slouch in the classroom either. He is a member of the National Honor Society and will major in Kinesiology, Health and Fitness Management at UCO.

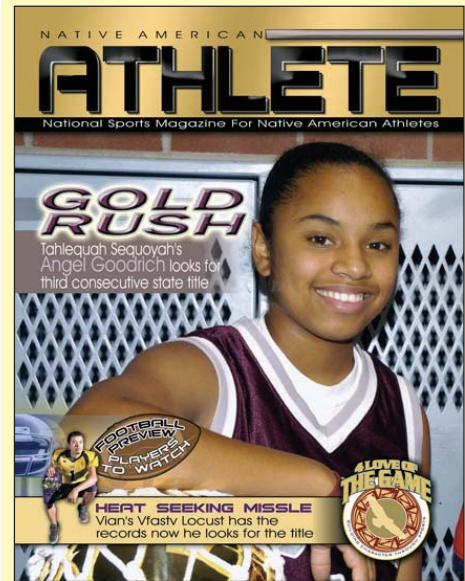
Even though Kelson is from Alaska, his roots here in the Sooner State run fairly deep. He is the grandson of the late Rev. Birdcreek Phillips and Eldean Robertson of Eufaula. He is the son of proud parents Ben and Georgie Phillips. His aunt Debbie Deere, also from Eufaula, expressed the happiness the family has experienced from Kelson's ac-



Native American Athlete to hit newsstands in September

by Jason Salsman
MNN Sports Reporter

HENRYETTA — If you are out there right now reading this article and you are frustrated, confused, wondering when there is going to be a source for nonstop Indian sports



news, you should take a deep breath because help is on the way. 4 Love of the Game organization is working at this moment on the debut issue of the *Native American Athlete*, a magazine that will feature the brightest Indian athletic stars of today and tomorrow.

The magazine's first issue, scheduled for release in September, will pay homage to some of the local athletes that have achieved notoriety in this region. The cover of the September issue will feature Tahlequah Sequoyah phenom Angel Goodrich, the top girl's basketball player in the state according to CoachesAid.com. In addition, there will also be a feature story on Vian's Vfastv Locust, a Creek Indian who holds the state record for touchdowns in a single season. The magazine will not forget the past, highlighting each month accomplishments from the many Indian athletes that have become legends to those that recognize their efforts. So look for the inaugural issue of the *Native American Athlete* you just might see yourself inside.

For more information visit www.4loveofthegame.org.

complishments. "We are so proud of him, and can't wait to see him do great things at UCO," she said. "We knew he had a tough decision to make, because he's a stand-out basketball player too, but I think he made the right choice."

Talking to Kelson's dad, Ben Phillips, back when his son had signed, he expressed how UCO was a perfect fit. "We visited the campus, took a tour, everything was really nice," he said. "It just seems like a great place for him."

For the time being Kelson is not sitting back and being complacent. The conclusion of his high school career simply meant the next step for him. As of press time, he was competing in the National Freestyle and Greco Roman Wrestling Tournament held July 23-29 in Fargo, ND. From there, it is no rest for the weary as he will head for Edmond, OK on August 12 to officially become one of the newest members to the tradition-rich UCO wrestling team.

So the kid from the village of Kotzebue is packing his bags and leaving the "Land of the Midnight Sun" for the waving wheat here in Oklahoma. Not to worry, his future looks bright all day long.

OLD SCHOOL vs. NEW SCHOOL

Is the steroid issue becoming a witch hunt in pro sports?



It is becoming a little ridiculous, now every athlete, regardless of his skill and talent is looking over the back of his shoulder.

We like to see our pro athletes do well, its what sometimes makes our day. Plus, the wear and tear of a daily sched-

ule, they have a lot on their minds enough as it is, now they have another thing to worry about-being paranoid about playing a good game and not receiving the applause they deserve for playing an honest game. Which the majority of them are doing it in the right way. But now the shadow looms large over all professional sports-did the athlete honestly perform well in a natural or enhanced way?



hampering them, if it takes borderline harassment until the day they are forced

I don't buy into this mentality that these poor, mistreated athletes are being unfairly accused and hampered. In this regard, I'm a little old school. If it takes

to quit, then so be it. I want every single player in any sport that has ever cheated to be found out and to be exiled. Now, that may sound harsh but are we supposed to just go on thinking that all is right with the world when these guys are cheating? All the while accepting mega endorsement deals and basking in the praise of fans that have been deceived.



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The history of the current Muscogee (Creek) Government and Constitutional Convention process

There were numerous obstacles encountered implementing the revitalization of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation government in accordance with the 1979 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution. The Chief Executive's election was to be by the citizens. The National Council also was to be elected by the people. The Executive and Legislative Branches were to participate in lawmaking and the appropriation and budget process. Reformation of the Judicial Branch, lost since the allotment era, presented the Nation with major problems, all of constitutional proportions due to a failure by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to recognize this Nation's sovereign right reform its government manage its own affairs, have a court system and law enforcement agency, and function on a government to government basis with the United States of America and state of Oklahoma. Insights into these problems and the solutions will be contained in future commentary as this Nation progresses through the Constitutional Convention process.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONSTITUTION

SUBMITTED BY: _____ Muscogee (Creek) Nation Roll Number: _____
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON
YOUR MCN CITIZENSHIP CARD: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

ARTICLE & SECTION: _____
AMEND TO SAY: _____

PROPOSED NEW SECTION AND/OR CLAUSE

ARTICLE & SECTION: _____
ADDITION: _____

Assisted by: _____ Signature _____
Preparer's Name _____
Preparer's Signature _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

<seal>

Mail Form to:
Mvskoke Nation Supreme Court
PO Box 546 - Okmulgee, OK 74447

Notary Public
Commission Expires: _____
Commission Number: _____

As a courtesy, the following content has been provided by the office of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Sumprme Court

CONSTITUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

AS AMENDED THROUGH FEBRUARY 18, 2006

Under the guidance of the Almighty God, our Creator, We the People of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, do promote Unity, to establish Justice, and secure to ourselves and our children the blessings of Freedom, to preserve our basic Rights and Heritage, to strengthen and preserve self and local Government, in continued relations with the United States of America, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

CONSTITUTION OFTHE MUSCOGEE(CREEK)NATION

ARTICLE I

- Section 1. The name of this Tribe of Muscogee (Creek) people shall be the “Muscogee (Creek) Nation”, and is hereby organized under Section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936 (48 Stat. 1967).
- Section 2. The political jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be as it geographically appeared in 1900 which is based upon those Treaties entered into by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the United States of America; and such jurisdiction shall include, however not limited to, properties held in trust by the United States of America and to such other properties as held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, such property, real and personal to be TAX-EXEMPT for Federal and State taxation, when not inconsistent with Federal law.
- Section 3. The official seal of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be the Seal as is illustrated:

ARTICLE II

- Section 1. Each Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood shall have the opportunity for citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 2. This Constitution shall not abridge the rights and privileges of individual citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enjoyed as citizens of the State of Oklahoma and of the United States of America.
- Section 3. This Constitution shall not abridge the rights and privileges of persons of Muscogee (Creek) blood for purposes of claims against the United States of America.
- Section 4. This Constitution shall not affect the rights and privileges of individual citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in their trust relationship with the United States of America as members of a federally recognized tribe.
- Section 5. This Constitution shall not in any way abolish the rights and privileges of persons of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to organize tribal towns or recognize its Muscogee (Creek) traditions.

ARTICLE III

- Section 1. The Principal Chief shall appoint, subject to majority approval of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, a Citizenship Board comprised of five (5) citizens who shall be charged with the responsibility of the establishment and maintenance of a Citizenship Roll, showing degree of Muscogee (Creek) Indian blood based upon the final rolls prepared pursuant to the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 137), and other evidence, as prescribed by ordinance.
- Section 2. Persons eligible for citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall consist of Muscogee (Creek) Indians by blood whose names appear on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 173), and persons who are lineal descendants of those Muscogee (Creek) Indians by blood whose names appear on the final rolls as provided by the act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 137); (except that an enrolled member of another Indian tribe, nation, band, or pueblo shall not be eligible for citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.)
- Section 3.
- (a)

All persons eligible for citizenship shall register as an applicant for citizenship; and
- (b)

The Citizenship Board shall certify citizenship, and the declaration of citizenship may be affirmed at any time with the name of the individual being entered on the citizenship roll, and the persons being recognized as a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, provided that:

(1)

the person is a Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood whose name appears on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906, (34 Stat. 137), or the person is a lineal descendant of a Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood whose name appears on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906, (34 Stat. 137); and is not an enrolled member of another tribe, nation, or pueblo; and

(2)

has made application to the Citizenship Board to become a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;
- (c)

Except those persons who are Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood whose name appears on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906, (34 Stat. 137), shall be automatically included as citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 4. Full citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be those persons and their lineal descendants whose blood quantum is one-quarter (1/4) or more Muscogee (Creek) Indian, hereinafter referred to as those of full citizenship. All Muscogee (Creek) Indians by blood who are less than one-quarter (1/4) Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood shall be considered citizens and shall have all rights and entitlement as members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation except the right to hold office.

ARTICLE IV

- Section 1. The Principal Chief shall appoint, subject to majority approval of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, an Election Board comprised of five (5) citizens who shall be charged with the responsibility of conducting, as prescribed by ordinance, all regular and special elections of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 2. Every citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, regardless of religion, creed, or sex, shall be eligible to vote in the tribal elections provided that (a) they are registered voters for elections; (b) they are at least eighteen (18) years of age at the date of election, with the registrant providing sufficient proof of age to the Election Board; and (c) they hold citizenship.
- Section 3. All elections shall be by secret ballot.
- Section 4. No candidate for office shall be considered elected:
- (1)

Unless the candidate receives a majority vote of the votes cast, or
- (2)

When a candidate is unopposed for office he/she shall be automatically declared the winner.
- Section 5. If there is any office in which a candidate does not receive the required majority of votes, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in that particular election.
- Section 6. Election dates for offices of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be no more than four (4) years apart.
- Section 7. All citizens shall be allowed to vote for the Principal Chief and any such national office that shall be created.
- Section 8. Only those citizens having legal residence in a district shall be allowed to vote in an election for that district.
- Section 9. All citizens having legal residence outside the herein defined jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall declare a home district within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation which shall be recognized as his legal residence for purposes of voting in tribal elections.

ARTICLE V

- Section 1.
- (a)

The Executive power shall be vested in and shall be known as the Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Principal Chief shall hold office during a term of four (4) years upon election by majority of the votes cast. The term of office shall begin the first Monday in the new calendar year (January). No person shall serve office of Chief more than two (2) consecutive terms for which he/she is elected.
- (b)

No person, except a citizen holding full citizenship, having attained the age of thirty (30) and having been a legal resident within the political jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for one (1) year immediately prior to filing for office, shall be eligible for Offices of Principal Chief or Second Chief.
- (c)

In the case of vacancy, whether by removal, death, or resignation of the Office of Principal Chief, the line of succession shall be the Second Chief who shall be elected in the same manner as prescribed for the Principal Chief. In the event of a vacancy of the Office of Second Chief, that an election be held within 60 days to fill the Office of the Second Chief, unless it happens within the last six months of the term in which case the term would remain vacant until the next election.
- (d)

The Principal Chief and the Second Chief shall, at stated times, receive for their services a fixed compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period of which they shall have been elected.
- (e)

Before the Principal Chief enters on the execution of his office, he shall publicly take the following oath or affirmation:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute The Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and will, to the best of my ability, uphold the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”
- Section 2.
- (a)

The Principal Chief shall create and organize the Executive Office of the Principal Chief; and
- (b)

With the advice and consent of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council appoint offices of the Executive Office. The National Council may, by ordinance, vest the appointment of such inferior offices as they think proper in the Principal Chief alone on in the officers.
- (c)

The Principal Chief shall have the power to fill vacancies by granting commissions which shall expire at the beginning of the next National Council meeting.
- Section 3. The Principal Chief shall prepare the annual budget requests and supplements thereto and with the advice and consent of the National Council administer funds within the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 4. The Principal Chief shall from time to time however not less than once a year give to the Muscogee (Creek) National Council information of the state of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and recommend for their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient. He may on extraordinary occasions convene the Muscogee (Creek) National Council.

ARTICLE VI

- Section 1.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as it geographically appeared in 1900, shall be divided into eight (8) districts corresponding namely with the Counties of Creek, Hughes/Seminole (Tukvpytce), McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee/Seminole, Okmulgee, Tulsa, and Wagoner/Rogers/Mayes, in whole or portion thereof.
- Section 2.

All legislative power herein shall be vested in the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, which shall consist of one (1) House with one (1) Representative from each district and one (1) additional representative for each 1,500 citizens. And further, that the number of National Council Representatives will be set at a maximum of twenty-six (26) members and additional seats may not be added without constitutional amendments.

(a)

Each representative shall be elected by a vote of the district and shall hold office for four (4) years. These terms of office shall be staggered to ensure that one-half of the Council stands for election every two (2) years. Beginning with the first election after this amendment is approved, those persons filing for B and D Council seats shall serve for a period of two (2) years and those persons filing for A, C and E Council seats shall serve for a period four (4) years. The B and D seats will stand for election in two years at which time the B and D seats shall commence a four-year term.

(b)

Each representative shall be a legal resident of his/her district for one full calendar year, prior to filing for office and shall be required to be an actual full time resident within that district for the term of office. When the representative ceases to be an actual resident of the district, they disqualify themselves as a representative of that district.

(c)

No person shall be a representative who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) and hold full citizenship nor has a felony conviction within the past ten (10) years as of date of filing for candidacy, in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d)

The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall elect from their numbers a Speaker, who shall preside over the Muscogee (Creek) National Council but shall have no vote unless the National Council be equally divided, and they shall choose a Second Speaker, who shall preside in the absence of the Speaker.

Section 3.

The term of office shall begin at the first meeting of the National Council following the first day of January and the oath of office shall be taken at the first meeting.

Section 4.

(a)

A majority of the members of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall constitute a quorum to do business. A smaller number may adjourn or compel the attendance of absent members in a manner and under such penalties to be prescribed by ordinance.

(b)

The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall judge of the returns and qualifications of its members, determine the rules of its proceedings, penalize its members for disorderly behavior and, with the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the National Council, expel a member from a meeting.

Section 5.

(a)

The Muscogee (Creek) National Council member shall receive a compensation for his services, to be prescribed by ordinance and paid out of the Treasury of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(b)

The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall choose its own secretary whose compensation shall be provided by ordinance.

(c)

No Muscogee (Creek) National Council member shall, during their term of office, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or such office which shall have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any elective, appointive, or any other office whether compensated or not under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be a member of the National Council during their continuance in office.

Section 6.

(a)

Every bill which shall have passed the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, before it becomes ordinance, shall be presented to the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. If he approves, he shall sign it; but, if not, he shall return it with his objections to the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) of the full membership of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall pass the bill, it shall become an ordinance. In such cases, the vote shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the person voting for and against shall be entered on the journal of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. If any bill shall not be returned by the Principal Chief within ten (10) days, Sundays and holidays excepted, after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be an ordinance as if he had signed it.

(b)

Every order, resolution, or other act intended to reflect the policy of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be submitted in accordance with the rules and limitations prescribed in case of a bill.

(c)

Every ordinance, order, resolution, or other act intended to reflect the policy of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be stamped with the Seal of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and be signed by the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Section 7.

The National Council shall have the power (subject to any restrictions contained in the Constitution and laws of the United States of America) to legislate on matters subject to limitations imposed by this Constitution as follows:

(a)

To promote the public health and safety, education and welfare that may contribute to social, physical well-being and economic advancement of citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(b)

To negotiate with Federal, State, and local governments and others.

(c)

To manage, lease, prevent the sale of, dispose or otherwise deal with tribal lands, communal resources or other interest belonging to The Muscogee (Creek) Nation or reserved for the benefit of such Nation.

(d)

To authorize and make appropriations from available funds for tribal purposes. All expenditures of tribal funds shall be a matter of public record open to all the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at all reasonable times.

(e)

To enter contracts on behalf of the Nation with any legal activity that will further the well-being of the members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(f)

To employ legal counsel.

(g)

To borrow money on the credit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and pledge or assign chattels of future tribal income as security therefore.

(h)

To lay and collect taxes within the boundary of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s jurisdiction from whatever source derived.

(i)

To create authorities with attendant powers to achieve objectives allowed within the scope of this Constitution.

(j)

To exercise any power not specifically set forth in this Article which may at some future date be exercised by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- ARTICLE VII
- Section 1.

The judicial power of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be vested in one Supreme Court limited to matters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s jurisdiction and in such inferior courts as the National Council may from time to time ordain.

Section 2.

The Supreme Court shall be composed of six (6) members appointed by the Principal Chief, subject to majority approval by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, and whose term shall be for six (6) years beginning July 1. No person shall be appointed as a Supreme Court Justice who has a felony conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 3.

The Supreme Court shall, with the approval of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council establish procedures to insure that the appellant receives due process of law and prompt and speedy relief.

Section 4.

The Supreme Court shall be presided over by a Supreme Court Justice chosen from their own number and shall be in regular, quarterly-scheduled session, coinciding with that of the fiscal year.

Section 5.

The decision of the Supreme Court shall be in writing and shall be final.
- ARTICLE VIII
- Section 1.

The National Council shall enact an ordinance outlining procedures and causes for removal. Such procedures shall contain, but not limited to, the certification of the required petition, as provided in Section 2 and 3 of this Article and show of cause for removal, giving the accused an impartial hearing and allowance of time to answer to notice of such hearing.

Section 2.

A signed petition showing cause of removal containing twenty (20) percent of registered voters in a district shall be cause to consider removal of a council member.

Section 3.

A signed petition showing cause of removal containing twenty (20) percent of the registered voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be cause to consider removal of the Principal Chief, Second Chief, and/or any member of the Supreme Court. A three-fourth (3/4) vote of the National Council shall be required for removal from office
- ARTICLE IX
- Section 1.

(a)

This Constitution shall be amended by:

(1)

Passage of an amendment ordinance before the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, which shall require affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the full membership of the National Council for approval.

(2)

A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the eligible voters who vote in special election called for said purpose by the Principal Chief pursuant to the rules and regulations that the Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall prescribe.

(b)

It shall be the duty of the Principal Chief to set such election date on the request of a majority of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council within thirty (30) calendar days.

Section 2.

(a)

A Constitutional Convention shall be convened. The Convention shall decide the date of the next Constitutional Convention.

(b)

The Constitutional Convention membership shall consist of the voters of the Nation.

(d)

A Constitutional Convention Commission is hereby established and shall have the administrative responsibility and authority to conduct the Constitutional Convention. The Constitutional Convention Commission shall consist of one (1) person from each of the three branches of Government and one (1) person from each District selected by the Caucus of National Council Representatives of each respective District. In the event any District Caucus fails to make its appointment to the Commission on or before the first day of March in a convention year the seated members of the Commission shall have the authority to nominate and fill any vacancy.

(e)

The Constitutional Commission shall organize and promulgate rules and regulations in February and proceed to carry out the process of a Constitutional Convention that will ensure citizen input and participation from throughout the Nation, completing their work on or before next February. The Commission shall conduct public hearings throughout the Nation to accept citizen views on constitutional amendments, revisions, alterations or additions and shall prepare a public report of all proposed amendments, revisions, alterations and additions. The Constitutional Convention Commission shall then work with the Election Board to prepare wording for separate ballots for each amendment, revision, alterations or addition to be submitted to the citizens at the election, completing this work on or before the last day of February.

(f)

Constitutional Convention amendments, alterations, revisions or new articles proposed by such Convention shall be submitted to the eligible voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at a special election, called by the Principal Chief within one hundred eighty (180) days, unless there is a General Election within one hundred eighty (180) days, and approved by a majority of the eligible voters voting thereon before the same shall be effective.

(g)

The National Council shall enact such laws as are necessary to ensure a Constitutional Convention is conducted. The National Council shall appropriate necessary funds to accomplish the Constitutional Convention.

reach Josh Slane at: e-mail:jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov phone: (918) 732-7638

ARTICLE X

- Section 1. This Constitution, when ratified by:
- (a) Those eligible to vote herein defined as:
 - (1) Those persons whose names appear on the final rolls of the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 137) or
 - (2) Those persons who are lineal descendants of a person shoes name appears on the final rolls of April 26, 1906, (34 Stat. 137) and
 - (b) A majority vote of those eligible who are registered to vote who vote in this Constitution Ratification Election of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation provided at least 30 percent of those registered voters shall vote.

SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF RATIFICATION

- Section 2. For the purposes of the first election of officers and representatives under this Constitution:
- (a) Those persons eligible to vote shall include all persons registered for the Constitution Ratification Election and those persons thereafter registered who are Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood and 18 years of age or more on the date of the election.
 - (b) Each district shall elect one representative.

ADOPTED this 20th day of August, 1979, by the Creek Constitution Commission in accordance with the Court Order of September 2, 1976, in the case of Harjo v. Andrus, Case 4-189, U.S.; District Court, Washington, D.C.

CREEK CONSTITUTION COMMISSION

August 20th, 1979 /S/
Date Bryant Jesse, Chairman

/S/ /S/
Louis Fish, Commissioner Allen Harjo, Commissioner

/S/ /S/
Virginia Thomas, Commissioner Robert Trepp, Commissioner

CERTIFIED:

August 20, 1979 /S/
Date Paula L. Francis
 Recording Secretary

APPROVAL

I, Sidney L. Mills, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of June 26, 1936, 49 Stat. 1967, as amended and delegated to me by 230 DM 1.1, do hereby approve the Constitution of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation subject to ratification by the qualified voters as provided in Article X of said Constitution; provided that nothing in this approval shall be construed as authorizing any action under the Constitution that would be contrary to federal law.

Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC

Date: August 17, 1979

CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

The Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs Approved the foregoing Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on August 17, 1979

It was submitted for ratification to the qualified voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and was on October 6, 1979 duly ratified by a vote of 1,896 for and 1,694 against, in an election in which at least 30 percent (30%) of the 9,125 qualified voters cast their ballots in accordance with Section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936, 49 Stat. 1967.

/S/
Bryant Jesse, Chairman

/S/
Louis Fish, Commissioner

/S/
Allen Harjo, Commissioner

/S/
Virginia Thomas, Commissioner

/S/
Robert Trepp, Commissioner

Date: October 9, 1979